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Lancaster PA PRIDE 2010

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see p. 16

FREE

MAY/JUNE 2010

In The DADT Grinder

Former Harrisburg resident Jene Newsome takes on the Rapid City, SD police department over her Air Force discharge

By Frank Pizzoli

"I've always played by the Don't Ask, Don't Tell rules, all nine years of my Air Force service. There was no reason for the police to inform the military about my personal life," beleaguered lesbian Air Force Sgt. Jene Newsome told Central Voice in a telephone interview from Alaska. Newsome is a former Harrisburg resident.

A former Harrisburg, PA resident, 28-year-old Newsome was until Feb. 26 an aircraft armament system craftsman. Rapid City, SD police department's discovery of her Iowa marriage license – where gay marriage is legal – and the military's DADT policy – under scrutiny that could lead to repeal – have collided head-on at the crossroads of gay civil rights.

Newsome's story begins Nov. 20, 2009 when Rapid City police see an Iowa marriage certificate in her home. They were at Newsome's home to serve her partner with an arrest warrant. Allegedly, her partner was wanted on theft charges in Fairbanks, Alaska.

While police were at her home, Newsome was working at nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base, about 15-20 minutes away. Police decided to tell base officials about the license, a disclosure that lead to Newsome's discharge from the military in January. More than 13,500 service members have been discharged under the policy since 1994, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

Complicating the matter are police claims

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***Don't Ask, Don't tell (DADT)** is the term for the policy restricting the United States military from efforts to discover gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members or applicants, while barring those that are openlay gay, lesbian, or bisexual from military service.*

The "don't ask" part of the policy indicates that superiors should not initiate investigation of a service member's orientation in the absence of disallowed behaviors. However, credible evidence of homosexual behavior may be cause for an investigation.

Issue Analysis:

How Do You Cut State Government?

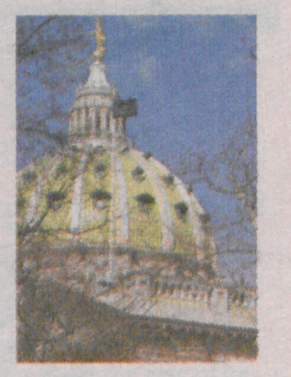
By Frank Pizzoli

"Only by reducing the growth of government can we increase the growth of the economy," said Ronald Reagan.

Mario Cuomo said, "We should have only the government we need, but we should have all the government we need".

Somewhere between these two statements is reality.

The idea that Pennsylvania's state government remains too large gnaws away at voters and elected officials. They come from all precincts of the political specter. Democrats, Republicans, Progressives, and Independents, the fastest growing sector of the political name game, each have sheet music on how to cut costs. As drum rolls pound louder for the approaching 2010 and 2012 elections, cutting costs is a tune the piper plays no matter who provides the coin.



The Associated Press reported that Pennsylvania, Michigan and Washington shed government jobs as of February, the result of shrinking state tax revenue. Pennsylvania lost 2,200 government jobs. Minnesota lost 1,900 and Massachusetts 1,500. About 4,600 of the state's 77,000+ jobs are at-will (patronage) employees under the

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INSIDE:

Take the test
see p. 24

Food & bombs
see p. 27

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Repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Remains Difficult

By Frank Pizzoli

"Swift, simple, and clean," is how Dr. Nathaniel Frank says the Pentagon should implement President Obama's requested repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell".

Pennsylvania Congressman Joe Sestak, running for a Senate seat in 2010, tells Central Voice he thinks the change could be accomplished in about "60 days with correct orders to commanders". Following a 31-year career in the United States Navy, Sestak supports repeal.

Weary of delays and tossed out of the military for being gay, Lt. Dan Choi and Capt. Jim Pietrangelo on March 18 handcuffed themselves to the gates of the White House. Authorities arrested Choi and Pietrangelo and took activist Robin McGehee into custody after she reportedly helped Choi and Pietrangelo handcuff themselves to the perimeter. There are an estimated 66,000 gay service members in the U.S., according to the gay rights policy center the Williams Institute.

"Swift, simple, and clean."

The Pentagon set a deadline of mid-March for announcing substantive changes to the DADT policy intending to apply the law in "a manner that is more appropriate and fair," according to Defense Secretary Robert Gates. The move showed that showing the military has the authority to implement changes in the law even without action by Congress.

"a disproportionate number of women"

Frank authored "Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America," called the definitive DADT book. He is senior research fellow at the Palm Center, a think tank that has released eight recommendations to the Pentagon Working Group on gays in the military. "We're working with the Pentagon and the White House," he says.

Since 1994 the Pentagon has discharged about 13,000 homosexuals and lesbian troops from the military. In 2008, center researchers showed that lesbians were discharged under the policy at a much higher rate than gay men. Every military branch dismissed a disproportionate number of women that year under the policy.

Air Force numbers underscored the biggest discrepancy, where women were a majority of those let go even though they made up only 20% of personnel. Overall, women represented about one-third of the 619 people discharged based on sexual orientation in 2008. They account for 15 % of all military personnel.

Some repeal opponents worry that removal of the ban will force a mass exodus. A 2008 military survey suggested almost 25% of active troops would leave the service if gays were allowed to serve openly.

Current and former troops have responded with mixed reviews.

Reserve Officers Association of the US members recently rescinded their previous call for complete exclusion of gays and lesbians serving in the military. Simultaneously, members also rejected by a two-thirds vote a proposal to endorse DADT.

"While our membership voted down a position supporting the current law, our actions fell short of endorsing the administration's current position that would allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military," said retired ROA president Rear Admiral Paul T. Kayye. "No inference should be made as to the association's position as we do not currently have one on this issue. The sense of the membership was that this issue should be resolved by currently serving military leaders," he said.

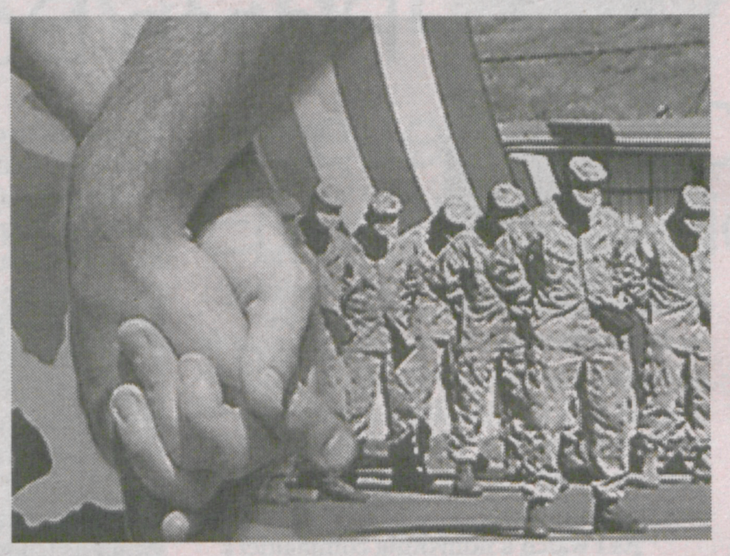
How current military leaders should proceed is where Frank enters the debate.

Removal of DADT is step Congress must take. Defense Secretary Robert Gates says it's not a matter of "if" gays and lesbians will be allowed to serve openly, but "when." Even so, Gates has asked for a year-long study to figure out the best ways to repeal the policy. In the meantime, he's asked the military to loosen the ban's enforcement. Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) added a push when in February he introduced a Senate bill calling for repeal.

March 25 Gates announced regulations on use of DADT would be revised to reflect a fairer application of the law. Revisions include raising the level of the officer who is authorized to initiate discharge proceedings for enlisted personnel to at least a one-star general or admiral and barring the use of third-party, confidential, or non-credible information about a service member's sexual orientation as a basis for discharge.

General David Petraeus, Commander of U.S. Central Command, on the review of "don't ask, don't tell": "It will suggest the policies that could be used to implement a change if it does come to that, so that it could be as uneventful as it was, say, in the U.K. or the Israeli militaries or, indeed, in our own CIA and FBI." ***February 21, 2010***

General Raymond Odierno, Commanding General of Multi-National Force - Iraq, on "don't ask, don't tell": "My opinion is everyone should be allowed to serve, as long as we're still able to fight our wars and we're able to have forces that are capable of doing whatever we're asked to do. And that's what I want the study to go through and tell us how we're going to best do this." ***February 22, 2010***



"Political and military leaders are saying that unless we study the feelings of straight troops, the Pentagon won't know how to manage the sensitive transition to an inclusive policy," Frank argues back. He cites a 1993 RAND report and other studies that concluded implementation this kind of change is best done quickly and simply. "If it's done this way, and with the full support of senior leadership, it will be a smooth transition," Frank says.

Secretary Gates said "We need to understand all of the different things that have to be dealt with in terms of housing and benefits, and regulations and fraternization rules, and conduct and training, and so on." Frank counters by citing the RAND report and other research indicating that if leaders send clear signals and hold service members to a common standard, these supposed second-order effects are minimal.

Sestak says "the troops are leading the way". He cites that there are "about 5,000 sailors on an aircraft carrier with an average age of 19 ½ and they really don't care. They're ahead of their leaders."

Issues around gays in the military have sprung at many court levels. The U.S. Supreme Court last March decided to hear a York County case involving members of the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church. The group has picketed military funerals to spread their belief that U.S. deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq are punishment for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality. The anti-gay protesters have shown up at military funerals with messages like "Thank God for dead soldiers."

Matthew Snyder

The court agreed to consider if the protesters' message, no matter how provocative and upsetting, is protected by the First Amendment. The case is an appeal from the York County father of a Marine killed in Iraq to reinstate a $5 million verdict against the protesters, after they picketed outside his son's funeral in Maryland. A jury in November 2007 found that the Westboro church intentionally inflicted emotional distress upon York resident Albert Snyder at the funeral of his son Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Snyder, 20, who was killed in Iraq in March 2006. March 25 the Court of appeals for the Fourth Circuit ordered Snyder to pay costs associated with the Phelps' appeal.

"He was a hero and he was the love of my life," said Albert Snyder. At press time, Albert Snyder, who earns $43,000 annually, had offers from strangers nationwide to help pay the $16,510.80 he was ordered to pay. Fox News Channel commentator Bill O'Reilly offered to pay Snyder's costs, according to WBAL Radio.

Another case to be argued June 14 by Attorney Dan Woods will give Frank's research some daylight. He will be called as one of several expert witnesses on behalf of repeal in a case brought by Log Cabin Republicans.

"Some five years after this case was first brought, we are now within striking distance of putting this misguided policy to the constitutional test it deserves," Woods said. "This country is now fighting two wars, and gay and lesbian members of our Armed Forces are serving their country honorably and dying on the battlefield even as the U.S. military officially seeks to bar them from service."

Besides testifying, Frank has offered eight recommendations to the White House and the Pentagon that he feels will provide clear signals. The center has published over thirty books, book chapters, and journal

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See Lt. Dan Choi and Capt. Jim Pietrangelo handcuffed themselves to the gates of the White House @ thecentralvoice.ning.com.

more community news on pages 6, 8, 11, 15, 16 27, 28, 30, 34

National Leader Discusses LGBT Health Issues June 9

Ever wonder how and if lgbt health issues affect your life? Is it difficult for you to find an lgbt-friendly doctor? Ever hold back important information for fear of being negatively judged?

The community is invited June 9, 7 p.m., Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, 1280 Clover Lane, to hear Rebecca Fox, Director, The National Coalition for LGBT Health. The event is sponsored by AIDS Community Alliance.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for the region to hear from an expert and to openly discuss lgbt health issues and needs," says Phil Goropoulos, CEO, AIDS Community Alliance. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVPs for the event are encouraged but not required.

For more information or to RSVP for the forum, contact AIDS Community Alliance at 1.800.867.1550 or e-mail lgbthealth@aca-pa.com.

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publisher's note

If You Don't Vote or Volunteer, Please Don't Complain

Frank Pizzoli

I know a lot of people who don't vote. Many of them also complain a lot. Without missing a beat nonvoters often launch into litanies of injustice they'd like to see stopped. Like an employment protection law for lgbt workers. Maybe same-sex marriage gets them hot. Voting doesn't seem to do a thing for them.

As I watch a nonvoting complainer's lips move (and turn down the volume inside my ears and wind up a smile), I wonder if they acknowledge the simple solution to their frustrations? Register to vote. Then vote. Vote each and every election cycle no matter what.

True, one person's vote alone usually doesn't create change. One vote can be a drop in the bucket, unless that single vote crowns a winner. The collective action of informed voters is what makes waves. And therein is the challenge when only voting (if you vote at all) isn't enough.

Besides voting as an individual, there are other ways to make change.

Volunteer. Join an organization. Buy a ticket to a benefit.

After all, how many times have you heard someone rattle off their favorite "You know what I think they should do…?" "They" being the smallish number of devoted men and women within the region's lgbt community, and our faithful allies, who seem to do it all. They sit on all the boards and committees, run all the events. They do this work on their own time, often at their own expense. They create a more embracing environment for us all. Let's not give them more homework to do. Let's help them out. Let's not be like that straight husband who when he lifts the couch for his wife to vacuum still thinks he's helping her. Housework is a job for both husband and wives. Likewise, voting and volunteering is everyone's job. Our organizations need our help.

Who are these organizations?

Pride Festival of Central PA, Lancaster Pride, AIDS Community Alliance, LGBT Community Center Coalition, The AIDS Fund of South Central PA, Harrisburg Men's Chorus, Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, The Black and White Party, TransCentralPA, Common Roads, Metropolitan Community Church, Silent Witnesses. The list goes on. Forgive me; I know I've likely missed some important organizations and venues. Please email me at posops@aol.com and summarize your mission.

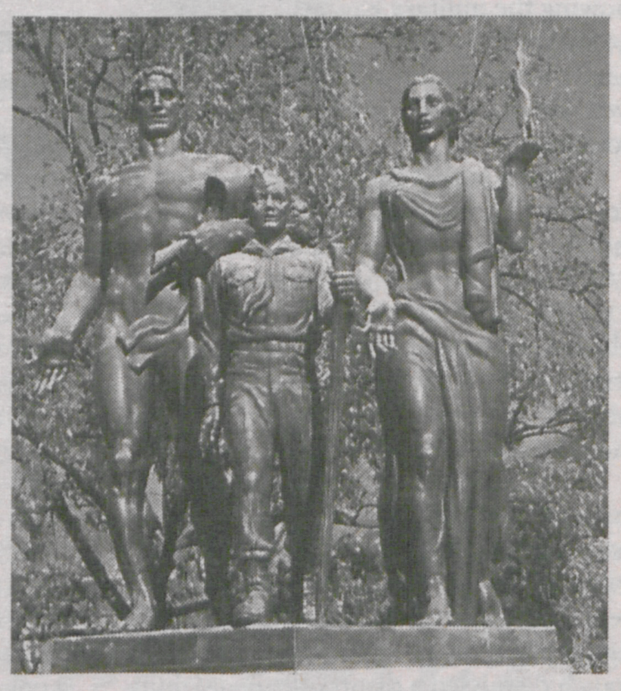
There's another group of swell guys and dolls who need our help and appreciation too.

There's an amazing and evolving group of entertainers, the drag performers – drag queens and drag kings – who are also a key part of the region's lgbt bedrock foundation. They work tirelessly to perfect their crafts and then literally take the show on the road to raise funds for all sorts of worthy missions.

Any one of these organizations and venues would be thrilled to have more volunteers. Be thrilled to have your time and talents. We all have some time. And the world knows we have talent. You don't have to volunteer to produce an entire Pride event. They need you to show up the day of the event to help on site. You don't have to produce and entire Black and White benefit for HIV. You just need to ask how you can help in your own way. You don't have to handwrite sheet music for the choruses, unless you've been bad and request that as punishment. You just need to show up and clap when they finish their amazingly entertaining concerts full of locomotive energy.

It's far better to vote and volunteer than not.

voice box



I have three adult male friends who have told me that as boy scouts they had been forced into gay sex while camping by their scout leaders. I heard these stories years ago. I have always said the Catholic Church has nothing on the Boy Scouts' gay sex hidden secrets.

So I am glad to see this story come out because like the Catholic Church the Boy Scouts are very, very homophobic yet both organizations are run and operated by a good deal of self-loathing homosexuals. It must be very difficult for these people who lead a double life to see the person nature made them be. Meanwhile, did you that the Boy Scout memorial statue on the Ellipse near the White House has a naked man standing with a scout?

Reader Paul Phillips on the recent exposure of secret sex files kept by the Boy Scouts of America.

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com

letters to the editor

Generosity
Thank you so much for treating me so kindly and with such generosity. You are the best.

David Mixner
Oct. 11 March on Washington Co-chair

Columns
What a nice selection of columns you have. All written by different community organizations. That's really a good idea. Helps me understand who's who, what's up and coming.

Reader

Local News & Interviews
Lots of local gay news, I like that! And activist and celebrity interviews – David Mixner, Judy Collins, kd lang, John Waters. Nice mix, keep it going!

Bad Brad

Candidates Seek LGBT Vote

Brooks Mountcastle: Gay Rights are Civil Rights

Submitted by Brooks Mountcastle

In 1789, when the founding fathers penned, "All men are created equal … with certain unalienable rights, … among these, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;" there were no qualifiers or exclusions. Yet, it took this country until 1920 to pass women's suffrage.

And, it took several more decades for the Civil Rights Act to pass in 1964. Sadly, the promise of the Bill of Rights, which gave rise to the U.S. Constitution, remains unfulfilled for lgbtq citizens.

We each have a responsibility to close this inequality loop and bring civil rights, basic human rights, to gays. In this great country, we all deserve the right to live our lives without fear of violence motivated by hate, and without fear of discrimination in employment, education, housing and public accommodations. Furthermore, I believe that laws imposing a rigid definition of marriage or outlawing an individual or family's ability to adopt children because of sexual orientation or gender identity undermines the victories of the Civil Rights movement.

Civil rights activist and former NAACP Chair Julian Bond said it so eloquently when asked about his participation in the National Equality March in 2009: The humanity of all people is diminished when any class of people is denied privileges granted to others.

If elected to the House of Representatives, I will strongly defend the rights of lgbtq constituents. I will also work to confront heterosexism and homophobia.

While I am proud to live in Harrisburg, one of the 14 municipalities in the state with local civil rights protections that include sexual orientation and/or gender identity, nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvanians remain unprotected, according to the 2000 Census. Clearly, we need more universal policy statewide to prevent discrimination.

I am heartened that our fellow Pennsylvanians agree. A Susquehanna Polling and Research poll reported that 86 percent of residents in the Commonwealth believe there should be workplace equality for lgbt people; 84 percent supported laws prohibiting discrimination in housing; and 89 percent favored equal access to public accommodations.

Now is the time for state leadership to act and to confront the scare tactics and misinformation of the anti-gay movement. I support statewide civil rights legislation that protects individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression.

Furthermore, I will oppose legisla-

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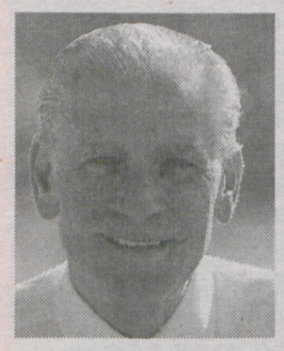
★★★

Rep. Ron Buxton: I Stand with LGBT Pennsylvanians



Submitted by Rep. Buxton's Campaign

State Rep. Ron Buxton, D-Harrisburg, is running for re-election to continue serving the LGBT community and all residents of the 103rd District, which includes Harrisburg, Steelton, Highspire and part of Swatara Township.

"I am asking for lgbt voters and straight allies to support me in the May 18 Democratic primary based on my record of supporting lgbt civil rights in the legislature, where I serve in the House Democratic majority leadership," Buxton said.

Buxton pointed to his strong record on issues of interest to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender constituents, including:

- Buxton is cosponsoring the bill to create civil unions for same-sex couples in Pennsylvania;
- He opposes adding an anti-gay "marriage amendment" to the state and federal Constitutions;
- Buxton is cosponsoring the bill to ban firing people just for being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender -- the bill would also cover discrimination in housing or credit (House Bill 300);
- He is a cosponsor of the bill to restore protection for LGBT people under Pennsylvania's hate-crimes law (House Bill 745);
- Buxton has secured state funding for Common Roads to support programs for LGBT and questioning youth.

Info: www.ronbuxton.com; 717- 695-7321.

Hoeffel Lays Out Equality Positions

Readers of the Central Voice may already know where I stand on questions of equality. But as I run for governor, and as we approach the May 18 primary, I write to lay out my record and to reaffirm my commitment to the lgbt community.

As governor, I would strive to enshrine equality into state law and would work to protect all citizens. As I stated a few weeks ago, "Pennsylvania should have no tolerance for any discrimination, and I will work on all fronts to protect individual rights."

First and foremost, I support full marriage equality; civil unions are certainly preferable to the lack of relationship options currently available to same-sex couples, but they are not a real substitute for equal marriage. I am ardently in favor of lgbt-inclusive hate crimes legislation and anti-discrimination laws and would use my role as governor to promote laws that would make these changes (PA HB 745 and PA HB 300) – legislation currently stalled in Harrisburg.

In addition, I support mandating coverage of gender identity health care in Pennsylvania's insurance packages. And I support state-funded syringe exchange programs to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania.

I have a record of advocacy and leadership that precede my run for governor. As a U.S. Representative, I cosponsored legislation to bar sexual orientation- and gender identity-based workplace discrimination, a bill to extend federal court jurisdiction over sexual orientation- or gender identity-based hate crimes and legislation to provide immigration benefits to same-sex partners of U.S. citizens or legal residents. I also voted in favor of granting domestic partnership benefits to D.C. municipal employees.

While a congressman, I proudly voted against the Marriage Protection Amendment and against language that stripped

continued on page 7

★★★

Steve Dorko Courts Gay Vote

Submitted By Steve Dorko

I have been a lifelong Democrat because the core principles of the Democratic Party are consistent with who I am and what I believe in. My entry into official elected office was in 2006 when I was elected as a Democratic Committeeman in the second ward, Susquehanna Township.

As part of the reorganization of the Dauphin County Democratic Committee in that year, I decided to run for the position of District Leader for the 104th Legislative District and won that internal Committee election. In this position my major responsibility includes organizing the Committee Men and Women of the 104th District in all efforts to elect Democrats to local, county, state and federal offices. Consequently, in the last four years I have been involved in a wide range of Democratic campaign efforts. This work included strategic planning, fundraising, volunteer coordination, doing door-to-door canvassing, and phone banking in all of the last nine elections.

In addition, as Legislative Leader I have been a voting member of the Dauphin County Democratic Committee and have had input into policy and decision-making for that Board. Being District Leader has enabled me to develop the skill set necessary to place my name on the ballot for PA State Democratic Committee to be one of the five representatives elected from Dauphin County.

The PA State Democratic Committee is the decision-making body that represents the Democrat voters across PA. State Committee selects, prioritizes, and advances the principles that represent the PA Democratic Party. It endorses those candidates who support and promote those principles, once elected.

In the Primary Election on May 18, Democrats in Dauphin County will select two men, two women, and one of either gender to represent them at PA State Committee. Unlike many other elected offices, these positions are decided in the Primary Election.

It is important for voters to understand that the organization and decision-making of the PA State Democratic Committee is influenced by structured Caucuses within the body. When elected from Dauphin County, the State Committee Member becomes part of the South Central Caucus, one of the eight regional Caucuses.

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Repealing cont'd

articles on gays in the military. Nine center studies have been published in peer-reviewed journals including International Security, Armed Forces and Society, and Military Psychology; others appeared in respected publications such as Parameters, the official journal of the U.S. Army War College.

Franks' key recommendations include:

1. Consulting existing literature as a roadmap
2. Assessing the impact on unit cohesion properly
3. Consulting troops for relevant information rather than asking permission for reform
4. Sending study teams to Britain, Israel, Australia, and Canada
5. Using an appropriate standard for assessing the likely impact of change
6. Consulting research on the timing of implementation
7. Noting that leadership and consistency are more important than second-order effects
8. Correcting for biases introduced by DADT

"Although our independent findings, and the vast majority of other government, military, and academic research, conclude that ending the gay ban will not harm military effectiveness, our offer of support and recommendations below do not assume any outcome," says Aaron Belkin, center director.

"We hope to be one of many resources that the working group considers. These recommendations reflect key 'lessons learned' from our work within this field," Belkin says.

Darren Manzella, former U.S. Army Sergeant

I served two tours of duty in the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A decorated health care specialist, I provided critical care on the streets of Baghdad and been praised and rewarded for his work. In December 2007 I returned from my second tour of duty, where I served as an openly gay soldier for the entirety of the rotation, to both my colleagues and command.

In 2002 I joined the U.S. Army and was assigned, following basic training, to the 1-82nd Field Artillery Battalion Aid Station at Fort Hood, Texas, where I was a health care specialist for my battalion.

Additionally, I served as the lead instructor and coordinator for the Combat Lifesaver program, which trains non-medical soldiers emergency first aid procedures to assist the medical personnel in treating and evacuating injured soldiers and civilians in a combat situation. In March 2004, I deployed to Iraq, where I provided medical coverage, emergency treatment and evacuation during more than 100 12-hour duties on the streets of Baghdad. While under fire, I provided medical care to my fellow soldiers, Iraqi National Guardsmen and Iraqi civilians. My service during an attack in Iraq earned me the Combat Medical Badge, and I also received several other awards recognizing my courage and duty to service in the war zone.

Following threats of outing and a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" investigation by my command, I wrote in a letter that, "I don't think most people can understand how hard it is to have to hide their true self; to have to pretend to be someone that they are not; to be scared that you'll be ostracized for being different; to be told that you're wrong if you live a certain life . . . that concerns no one else but yourself. . . . I am proud of myself and of the accomplishments I have achieved in my life."

"I know that being gay would not have made a difference in receiving my college degree . . . .," Manzella wrote, "my time spent as a psychiatric counselor . . . [and] certainly didn't make a difference when I treated injuries and saved lives in the streets of Baghdad."

I was met with overwhelming support from both my fellow soldiers and superiors after coming out. The investigation into my personal life was closed and the Army deployed me later that year for a second tour of duty in the Middle East - again in Baghdad and then Kuwait - in 2006.

A member of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network Speakers Bureau, I have shared my story about serving openly to CBS's 60 Minutes, making me one of the first openly gay, active-duty service members to speak with media while serving inside the war zone.

In March of 2008 I was informed by my commander at Fort Hood, Texas, that I was being recommended for discharge under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; a copy of the 60 Minutes transcript was attached to the discharge recommendation. On June 10, 2008, I was separated from the military with an honorable discharge.

Today I continue to fight for repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Using my personal experiences, I continue to speak out publicly and travel the country to educate others by adding a personal perspective to expose the harmful effects and discrimination of the current law banning open service of gay and lesbian Americans.

Rhonda Davis, former U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class (1995-2006)

Rhonda Davis is from the small town of Buena Vista, Virginia. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from James Madison University with a B.A. degree in 1992, and went on to take graduate courses and teach English at JMU before joining the Navy in 1995. For the next four years, Rhonda served as a Radioman in Rota Spain and later, aboard the USNS Concord in Norfolk, Virginia.

After successfully completing a four-year enlistment, Rhonda decided not to re-enlist, but remained in the active reserves, serving in a Mobile Inshore Undersea War Unit in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia for nearly two years.

In September 2000, Rhonda took a job at a language school in Poland, teaching English and Spanish for a one-semester term, then returned to the U.S. and re-joined the military. The exotic travel and lifestyle of the Navy called her back, despite "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and she re-entered as a Navy journalist. After graduating top of the class in both the Defense Information School's Journalism and Broadcasting courses, Rhonda accepted a billet at the American Forces Network, Yokota Air Base, Japan. There, she worked in all areas of journalism and broadcasting, including news production, directing, reporting, TV news anchor, radio DJ for Eagle 810, and Operations Manager. She won six civilian broadcasting awards for radio and television spots, two Navy Chief of Information (CHINFO) award for Best Radio Entertainment Program and Best Informational Program, 3 Air Force Media awards, an Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service to Air Force News, numerous photography awards, and was voted Pacific Stars & Stripes AFN Personality 2004.

In January 2006, Rhonda transferred to Navy Recruiting District New York where she served as Public Affairs Officer until being discharged for homosexual admission in July of the same year.

Now Rhonda lives in Long Island with her partner of more than 3 years, and she works with Soulforce and Military Equality Alliance to end the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

She has appeared on CNN's Paula Zahn Now and American Morning, as well as in such publications as Stars & Stripes, Navy Times, Newsday, and The Advocate. Rhonda also lobbies with immigration equality organizations for the "Uniting American Families Act," a law that would offer binational same-sex couples the same recognition and treatment afforded to binational married heterosexual couples.

Dr. Vincent Nerviano Talks about LGBT Mental Health

"My practice is beneficial to lgbt individuals because it enables them have the same right of access to a senior experienced clinician as anybody else, says clinical psychologist Dr. Vincent J. Nerviano. He is a licensed psychologist holding an M.A. and Ph.D. His services accept a variety of third party payers.

"I've always been lgbt friendly and aware of local lgbt activities and resources," he says. Early on Nerviano was encouraged to take into account the needs and sensitivities of the lgbt community from those in the community who were professional colleagues and friends. "My services include health care awareness, substance abuse and addictions." He has over 35 years of outpatient and inpatient practice.

Nerviano finds that when counseling lgbt individuals, couples, or families that most issues are common interpersonal or clinical problems. "The extent of complications from being 'closeted' or 'coming out' to family and friends vary widely," he says. "We are more simply human than simply otherwise" is a favorite quote he uses from psychiatrist Harry Stack Sullivan.

He hopes that as "Don't Ask/Don't Tell changes as well as the state's marriage laws he can help clients deal with those situations. Contact: http://nerviano.net.

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Hoeffel cont'd

federal court jurisdiction over the Defense of Marriage Act.

My long-standing support of our community has been recognized by groups like the Human Rights Campaign, which gave me a 100 percent rating for my three terms in Congress and endorsed my run for Senate in 2004. I have been endorsed in this year's governor's race by the Gertrude Stein Club of Greater Pittsburgh and highly recommended by the Steel City Stonewall Democrats, two lgbt political organizations in western Pennsylvania.

You can also count on me to address other pressing issues, namely job creation. I want to create green jobs, connect our cities and suburbs to make employment opportunities more accessible for all people and increase access to community colleges.

I will double spending on the state's crumbling infrastructure, improving public transportation and highways. I'll make sure the natural gas in the Marcellus Shale is acquired in a way that protects citizens' drinking water and maintains the natural beauty of central Pennsylvania.

I will continue his fight for the rights of workers to organize and for the creation and maintenance of good jobs for union workers. I will build on the admirable work of President Obama and the United States Congress by working for health coverage for all Pennsylvanians. And he will steadfastly protect a woman's right to make her own reproductive decisions. In short, I believe I am the most progressive candidate on this year's ballot. I have dedicated significant time on the campaign trail to talking to members and leaders of the lgbt community in this state - from Allentown to Erie, from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. I have heard your stories, and I am ready to lead an administration in Harrisburg that will make inequality history. I would be honored to have your vote on May 18.

Mountcastle cont'd

tion that proposes amending the state constitution to outlaw gay marriage and civil unions. I will support initiatives that promote relationship recognition including marriage equality. I believe we must all be vigilant, especially as lawmakers, to challenge any legislation that threatens to rewrite the constitution by violating our civil rights.

When George W. Bush supported a Constitutional ban on gay marriage, Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke up and reminded America of King's legacy:

"Gay and lesbian people have families, and their families should have legal protection, whether by marriage or civil union. A constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages is a form of gay bashing and it would do nothing at all to protect traditional marriages."

Because of the Civil Rights Movement, we know that freedom for one requires freedom for all. In Pennsylvania, this means we must continue our fight for justice to protect the rights of our LGBTQ neighbors, coworkers, friends and family. If elected to the General

Assembly, I will proudly support legislation that guarantees the LGBTQ community the same rights, privileges, and protections that I have been afforded.

Brooks Mountcastle, is running in the Democratic Primary for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 103rd District.

Susquehanna Art Museum Presents "Art as Emotion" at Whitaker Center

In partnership with Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, the DŌSHI Gallery at the Susquehanna Art Museum presents "Art as Emotion". The juried exhibition runs until June 11.

The exhibit presents a group of talented artists interpreting the subject of "emotion" through a variety of art media. Regardless of the style - realism or expressionism, abstract or conceptual, visual artists often regard emotion in itself to be the subject of work.

Powerful and direct expressions of emotion are shown in all genres of the visual arts: paintings depicting the horror of war, photographs which carry the grief of a mother at the death of a child, sculpture which conveys the delight of a celestial dancer. This exhibition will communicate the diversity of emotion, providing viewers with a resonating experience.

The DŌSHI Center for Contemporary Art, founded by Maya Schock in Harrisburg in 1972, was incorporated into the operations of the Susquehanna Art Museum in 1997. In spirit with the mission of the original DŌSHI Center (named for a Japanese word meaning "brotherhood"), the DŌSHI Gallery provides a venue for emerging and established Pennsylvania artists to exhibit their work, explore new ideas and develop a dialogue with the Museum and the community.

Dorko cont'd

This subgroup meets regularly to coordinate members' actions and to choose group policy based on issues specific to this eight county area of PA.

I am an active member of the Dauphin County, Susquehanna Township, and the lgbt Communities. In voting for me, you will be selecting a representative that can provide the perspective of the issues facing those communities as a member of the South Central Caucus.

Additionally, the structure of the State Democratic Committee includes four Constituency Caucuses: Women's Caucus, African American Caucus, Labor Caucus, and LGBT Caucus. Each of the Constituency Caucuses meets to decide group policy for the common good of the group and presents its voice to influence the entire State Committee in its actions.

The work of the existing LGBT Caucus of State Committee has included the development of a resolution in support of House Bill 300 which prohibits discrimination against lgbt individuals in employment, housing, and accommodations. The resolution served the purpose of reminding the members of State Committee that lgbt citizens do not have statewide protections. It also put State Committee on record in support of the passage of House Bill 300. Additionally, the resolution called on State Senators and State Representatives to co-sponsor the bill and to vote in favor of its passage.

In voting for me, you will be selecting a representative to State Committee who will advocate for equality for all citizens at the State Committee LGBT Caucus. I am an active member of the LGBT community, visible and involved. For the last five years I have been a member of the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats (CRSD). As a member of the CRSD board, I serve as Elections Chair. In this capacity, my committee works to survey local, state, and federal candidates for elected office to gauge their level of support for issues relevant to the lgbt community. I have volunteered time and energy to the campaigns of federal, state and local candidates who have been endorsed by the CRSD for their support of issues critical to lgbt civil rights.

I do this work because I personally share the principles advanced by the Democratic Party and believe this is the time to demonstrate that this party can continue its work to improve the lives of citizens living in Dauphin County.

Democrats face many challenges before us in 2010. We must remember that we have been successful since 2002 in electing Democrats to state and national offices.

I'm willing to step forward and advocate for the Democratic Party that stands for equal rights for all citizens of Dauphin County. If elected, I will be your voice at the State Committee table.

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Harrisburg to Host PA Young Professionals

Pennsylvania Young Professionals announced that Harrisburg Young Professionals will host the 2010 imPAct Conference in Harrisburg Sept. 10-12.

The imPAct Conference convenes young leaders from across Pennsylvania, including members from more than 20 young professional organizations such as the Harrisburg Young Professionals, the Cumberland County Young Professionals, the York Young Professionals and the Lancaster Young Professionals.

"We are excited to have the conference back in Harrisburg," said Jason Marks, president, Harrisburg Young Professionals. "This is an excellent opportunity to showcase our city to some of the most engaged and influential young leaders from across the commonwealth."

This year's conference will focus on the theme of leadership, using the slogan, "Network. Lead. Succeed."

James E. Nevels is keynote speaker. Nevels is the founder and chairman of The Swarthmore Group and has nearly thirty years experience in the securities and investment industry. In December 2001, Mr. Nevels was appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania as Chairman of the Philadelphia School Reform Commission and served through September 2007 overseeing the turnaround of the Philadelphia School System, the eighth largest school district in the US. He is currently the non-executive chairman of the Board of The Hershey Company, sits on the Board of Directors at the Tasty Baking Company and is a member of the Board at the Hershey Trust Company, the Milton Hershey School and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"The imPAct conference is an important venue, bringing together some of the brightest young talent we have across Pennsylvania," said Rich Hudic, president and CEO, Team Pennsylvania Foundation. "We believe this next generation will provide and continue to foster the leadership that will make the commonwealth a more competitive force in the global marketplace."

Info: www.impactharrisburg.com.

community voice

Pride to Remain in Harrisburg

As spring approaches, Pride Festival of Central PA continues to forge ahead with planning the 2010 Pride Festival. The event is planned each year by an all volunteer board of directors. The group works all year long on the popular event that draws 5,000+ people.

Although charitable giving and sponsorships have decreased due to the poor economy, there will be a 2010 Parade and Pride Festival.

Last January, the organization extended an open invitation to the region's lgbt and ally organizations to attend a public meeting to discuss the event. Thirty-two people attended the discussion, most representing organizations. A consensus at the meeting was that festival organizers shouldn't be afraid to explore other cities, other venues, to compare costs, the advantages and disadvantages of locations other than Harrisburg, and/or other Harrisburg-based sites.

After detailed research, continuous debate and consideration that began at that January community discussion, the Board of Directors of Pride Festival of Central PA voted March 2 to keep the annual festival in Harrisburg for 2010.

For the 2010 event, the economic realities of fundraising and sponsorships were taken into consideration. Fundraising and sponsorship drives began in September 2009 have not produced the level of income needed to sustain the level of spending that occurred in 2009. Therefore, budgets for both the parade and festival have been revised in an effort to keep expenses in line with the actual costs of the event. The revised budgets also reflect the overall decrease in fundraising the organization is experiencing due to the poor economy.

Another twist for the 2010 event is the focus on local talent. Organizers have made an effort to bring in popular local talent, another change that reflects feedback from the community. The event will not present an expensive headliner, another decision partially based on community feedback.

There will be a 2010 PrideFest Unity Parade. The parade does not generate much revenue and last year cost $20,000. Therefore, in order to keep that portion of the event affordable, the parade will return to its 2008 route and budget. That means the parade will form on Front St. and North St. and proceed south on Front St. to Walnut St , its original route. There will be a significant reduction in the number of invited and paid talent for the parade.

Pride Festival of Central PA Board of Directors hopes the community will be able to fill the void with increased participation of local organizations, businesses, and individuals.

❖❖❖

Pride Festival of Central PA Announces Festival Events

Pride Festival of Central PA announces the schedule of events for the annual summer extravaganza. The weekend's festivities begin Fri., July 23, 8 p.m., Market Square Presbyterian Church, downtown Harrisburg. Later that evening, the Official Pre-Pride Party will be held 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at a local establishment to be announced.

Sat., July 24, the 5th Annual Pride Fest Unity Parade kicks off at 11 a.m. In addition to organizations, business, and marching bands participating in the parade, the community is invited to submit individual entries. Categories for individual entries are: doggie pride/drag, a competition for the best dressed dog and owner and Miss/Mr. Pride Parade, a competition for the best over the top drag outfit. This year's parade marches down Front St. between North and Walnut Streets. The parade stage and reviewing stand is located at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Front St.

Immediately following the parade, the 19th Annual Pride Festival of Central PA commences in south Riverfront Park Harrisburg noon to 5 p.m., an earlier closing time from previous years. Featured performers are DC Dance Cowboys, Main Stage, 3 p.m. The festive day concludes with the Official Post-Pride Party 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at a local establishment to be announced.

Jeff Clouser, Pride president, says that the volunteer governing board is currently working with the Harrisburg Senators to have a Pride Night at a baseball game sometime around the time of the annual Pride Festival weekend.

Applications to participate in the parade or the festival can be obtained by visiting the festival's website: www.prideofcentralpa.org. In addition, the committee is looking for volunteers to help with this year's festival. Individuals interested in volunteering can email Pride at info@prideofcentralpa.org.

Donald Anklam reports that the organization is looking for individuals who would be willing to serve on the board of directors to plan the 2011 Pride Festival.

Pride Festival of Central PA wishes to thank all who participated in the Winter Dine In Program including dinner hosts and those who attend and made personal contributions to Pride. The benefit program raised $2,000.

Brad Martin, sponsorship chair, says "there is still time for businesses to become sponsors for the 2010 Pride Festival". For

continued on page 10

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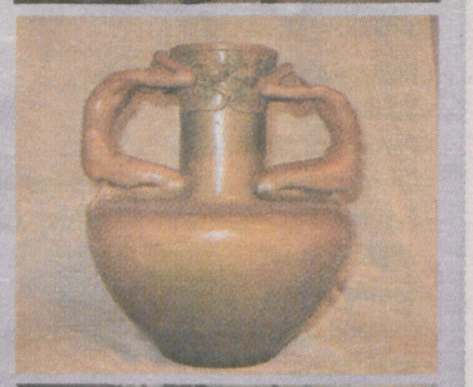

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From left: Ben Renkus, David Schlenker, and Richard Spangler, Reading Pride; Mark Stoner, AJ Marin, Lancaster Pride; Mark Smith, Adam Hagerty, Brad Martin, and Donald Anklam, Central PA Pride Festival.

Festival Events cont'd

more information on business sponsorship opportunities, contact Martin at info@prideofcentralpa.org.

In related activity the region's three Pride organizations met last March 27 to compare notes and discuss ways to work together. Represented at the meeting were Lancaster Pride, Reading Pride, Central PA Pride Festival, and Central Voice.

"We've met before and wanted to continue our communication," says Mark Smith, who has successfully chaired a parade for the Central PA Pride Festival for the last four years.

All present agreed each venue would maintain its own separate identity. "Each event has its own history but there are ways we can work together to share costs, reduce costs. We're all 100% volunteer organizations but with that comes a responsibility to act in a businesslike manner nonetheless. These events are more than 'Gee kids, let's put on a show,'" explained Donald Anklam, who has chaired the main event for Central PA Pride Festival.

"This is wonderful. We need to keep meeting," said Richard Spangler, Reading Pride, held this year on July 18.

Pride Festival of Central PA

July 23 - 25, 2010

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AIDS Community Alliance Moves

After seven years at 401 Division Street, Ste. 100 in Harrisburg, the administrative offices of AIDS Community Alliance recently moved. The multi-county agency now operates its administrative offices at 100 N. Cameron Street, Suite 301 East, Harrisburg, PA 17101. There are no changes to the agency's phone number, fax number or web site.

While the facility on Division Street had been a serviceable location for ACA, the move to the new administrative office provides the agency with an excellent opportunity to enhance its programs and services, according to Phil Goropoulos, President /CEO. He says the new location will provide for multiple rooms that may be used for confidential client services, including HIV testing, support groups, educational programs and case management services, while continuing to meet the office needs of all ACA programs. ACA's former location had only a single room dedicated to client-related activities.

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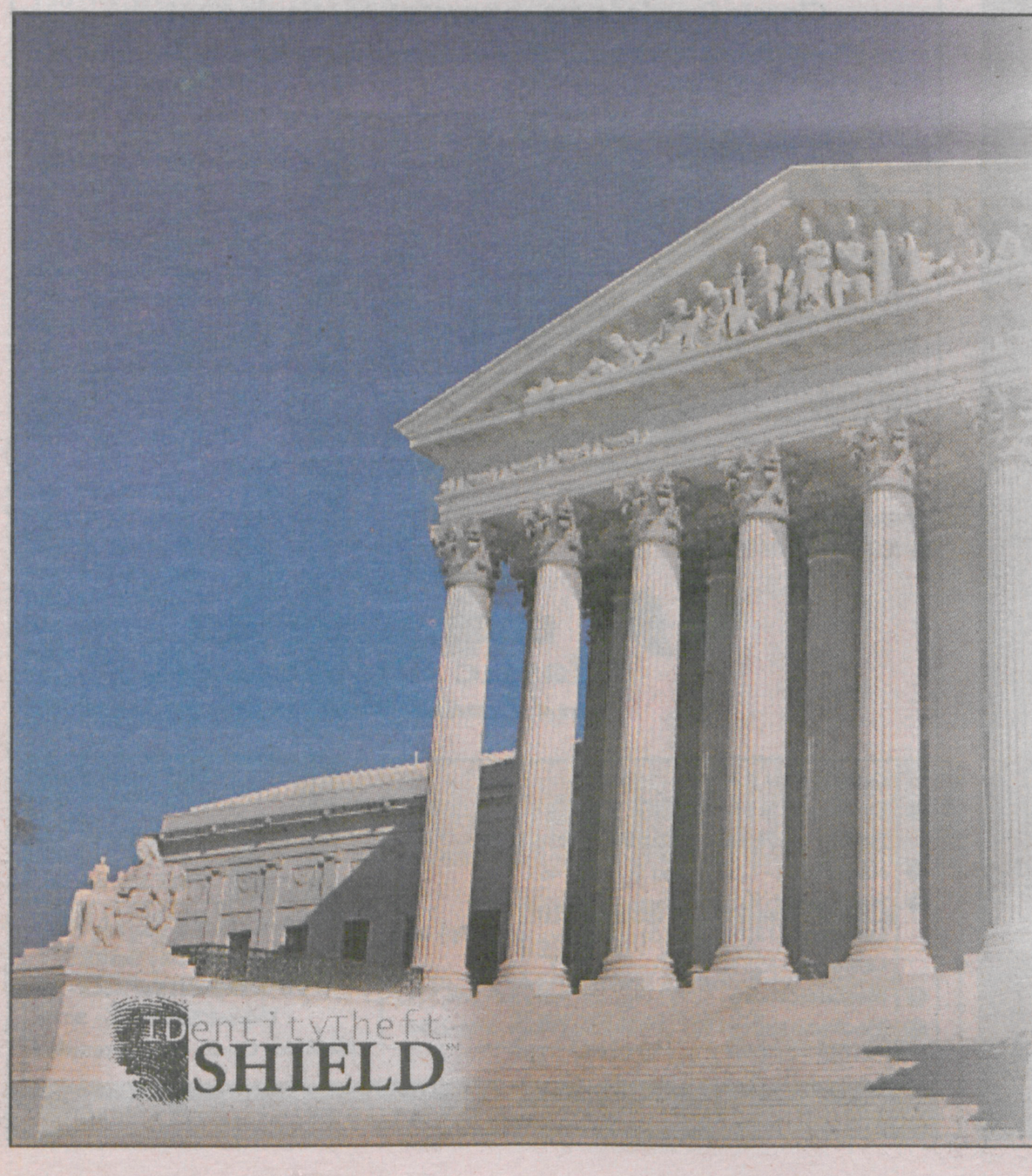

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arts & entertainment

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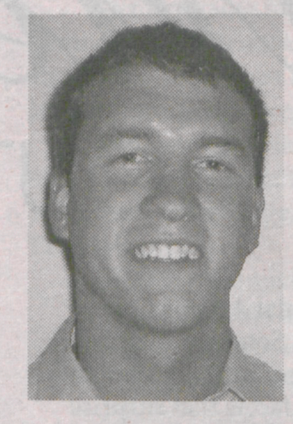

By Sean Maloney

Over the past 10 months the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania has been unveiling one new program after another. LGBT identified individuals, their friends, families and allies have had opportunities to go to Washington D.C., attend regular book clubs, explore the outdoors, buy art at gallery openings, watch ground breaking films and more. Many are left asking the center, "What's next?"

As the center gears up for a great summer season of attending amazing Pride festivals in the region, we are also adding a new programming focus to our growing repertoire. Health & Wellness has been the theme at center in 2010, and the summer will be no exception. New social mixers are being planned for lgbt elders in the community, exciting benefits for youth and plenty of fun activities to keep everyone active are all on the horizon.

The outdoors group will be taking trips that cater to all ages around central Pennsylvania. Common Roads will be keeping it real on City Island, at Midtown Scholar and at First Fridays in Lancaster. Basically, if you are finding yourself bored this summer, you clearly haven't looked at the center's calendar of events.

In addition to all of these sizzling summertime programs the center will be hosting a series of small fundraising events. From wine tastings to soirée's there will be something for everyone. If you haven't attended one of these premiere events, maybe you should! Don't want to attend one, why not host one?! The center staff can work with you to cultivate a great event that will be a "must" on everyone's social calendars. All while supporting the vital programs and services that the center offers.

The moral of the story is you should check out all that the center has to offer this summer. Whether you want to attend a program, plan a fundraiser or volunteer at the office, we have something for you. To find out more visit our web page at www.centralpalgbtcenter.org or call one of the staff at 717-920-9534.

Chamber on the move

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By Bill Krenz, Board of Directors

The Central PA Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce events for May and June are: May 5 the chamber is coordinating the educational event "Stop Discrimination Before It Starts," 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Wells Fargo Insurance Services Building at the Rossmoyne Business Park, Mechanicsburg.

May 11 is the May Mixer at the Four Points Sheraton hosted by the Sheraton and Pride Festival of Central PA.

June 10 is the the June Mixer sponsored by David Forney at his private residence. Remember to RSVP for any mixer event on the Chamber's website, www.cpglcc.org.

The chamber is sponsoring both the Lancaster Pride and the Pride Festival of Central PA. The business organization will staff booths at both events in order to create exposure within the lgbt community and increase membership. Look for our banners and our members at these two local events.

March was a busy month with the chamber having attended the following events: Estamos Unidos Dinner March 4, Harrisburg Regional Chamber Annual Dinner March 8, and Keystone Dinner Gala sponsored by TransCentral PA March 13.

The chamber sponsored the HB 300 Community Discussion held March 8 in Lancaster. The community panel was arranged by the Lancaster City Human Relations Commission.

March 27 Russell A. Boggs, chamber president, and George Fernandez, board of directors, attended the Out & Equal Regional Workplace Summit, Philadelphia.

The March 16 networking mixer was hosted by Members 1st Federal Credit Union was the chamber's largest mixer. The credit union's CEO Bob Marquette and George Nahodil, executive vice president, made appearances. The credit union also announced that any chamber member is now eligible to open an account as a member partner.

The April 6 Mixer was held in downtown Lancaster at the Lancaster Arts Hotel which conducted tours of the facility. Chamber board and members attended the April 17 Spring Fling sponsored by Pride Festival of Central PA.

Chamber info: info@cpglcc.org.

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

Charleston
SOUTH CAROLINA

One of the wealthiest and largest cities of pre-Colonial America, Charleston today mixes expected, if stereotypical, Southern charms like plantation museums, cobblestone lanes, ancient military sites and traditional Lowcountry cuisine with a number of facets that surprise first-time visitors: hip coffeehouses, edgy galleries, informal restaurants and nightspots, and an increasingly more youthful and progressive population (Obama easily outpaced McCain in Charleston County in 2008). It's hardly surprising that this fast-growing, sophisticated city known for its arts festivals and historic architecture has become a favorite weekend destination among lgbt travelers.

Museum junkies won't lack for things to see and do here, although there's no reason to focus your explorations indoors, especially from fall through spring, when the moderate climate is perfect for strolling along the riverfront or trekking to one of the beach communities nearby.

A good place to begin exploring is with a stop at the Historic Charleston Foundation. A number of key events are held here, including the famed Spoleto Festival, which in late spring offers two weeks' worth of first-rate opera, dance, theater, music, poetry readings and visual arts exhibitions. The foundation also operates two superb museums, the 1817 Aiken-Rhett House and the 1808 Nathaniel Russell House. From the latter you can walk a few blocks south to Waterfront Park, a grassy tree-filled plot of land with gardens and an adjacent promenade overlooking the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper rivers.

Walk north through the historic downtown along Meeting Street, Charleston's "Museum Mile," and you'll find one intriguing attraction after another. The Gibbes Museum of Art, with its 7,000-piece permanent collection and the Charleston Museum, which opened in 1773, are highlights. Meeting, King and Bay streets have their share of both high-quality and predictable gift and antiques shops, as well as several galleries.

Charleston figured pivotally in the American Revolution and even more directly in the start of the Civil War. Today Fort Sumter Tours offers boat excursions out to Fort Sumter National Monument, the 19th-century fort on which the first shot of the war was fired on April 12, 1861.

No visit to Charleston is complete without a side trip to one of the imposing plantations. Consider the 1740s Drayton Hall, the only extant antebellum mansion along the Ashley River (it's unfurnished, however); and Middleton Place, a 1741 spread whose colorful gardens are the oldest in the country.

In the other direction, head east and then south to the breezy Sullivan's Island, an excellent place to stroll along pristine gold-sand beaches. You can tour Fort Moultrie, another significant Civil and Revolutionary war site that's now run by the national park service. And then stop for a filling lunch at rustic Poe's Tavern, which turns out enormous and delicious burgers with names inspired by 19th-century horror writer Edgar Allan Poe - he was stationed at Fort Moultrie for a couple of years.

In downtown Charleston, you'll find countless opportunities to partake of the region's famed Lowcountry cuisine, which mixes soul, Creole, and Southern recipes. Head to Slightly North of Broad (aka "S.N.O.B.") for a creative take on classic Southern fare, including a flawless rendition of shrimp-and-grits. Just down the street, Blossom serves similarly creative Lowcountry cooking with a modern spin - try the pan-seared flounder with butterbean ragout and bacon jus.

Quite a few more modern establishments have been gaining favor with foodies of late. A good choice for sipping flights of different styles of wine while nibbling on tasty tapas is Social Wine Bar, which makes fantastic wood-fired pizzas - the one with prosciutto, fontina, sliced pear and mozzarella is a stand-out. Stellar farm-to-table mod cuisine is served at the trendy storefront eatery Fig, from Wagyu beef tartare to slow-baked black bass with baby clams.

An emerging restaurant row close to the city's two main gay bars, upper King Street, has several excellent dinner spots, including the swanky pan-Asian restaurant Chai's Lounge & Tapas and the cozy, romantic French bistro La Fourchette - an enjoyable place to feast steamed mussels in garlic and white wine with frites double-fried in duck fat.

With as strong a lgbt following as anywhere in town, Vickery's serves such tasty and affordable Caribbean-meets-Cuban victuals as fried-green-tomato turnovers, black bean soup, and grilled jerk chicken salads. Stop by the cozy coffeehouse Baked, the only place in the Southeast serving Portland, Oregon's famed Stumptown Coffee, plus tasty cakes and deliriously good sweet-and-salty brownies (filled with caramel and topped with sea salt).

Although Charleston isn't a major gay nightlife hub, you will find a couple of great hangouts near upper King Street. Convivial Dudley's Pub is a prime spot to chat with locals, shoot pool, sing karaoke, or watch videos, while just down the block and open only on weekends, Pantheon is the city's hottest gay dance club, with go-go boys, top DJs, and drag shows. You'll also find a couple of less touristy neighborhood bars in the region: Patrick's Pub & Grill, a 15-minute west of downtown, Déjà vu II, which is the same distance to the north.

Upscale and popular year-round, Charleston has fairly high hotel rates, but you will find some of the snazziest and most romantic accommodations in the country. If you'd rather not blow your whole budget on your room, consider a couple of the excellent - and gay-friendly - mid-priced chain properties in town, including the Hampton Inn Charleston Historic District (which is close to Dudley's and Pantheon gay bars) and the attractive Courtyard by Marriott Charleston Waterfront, which overlooks the riverfront and is a 10-minute walk west of the Historic District.

Among high-end lodgings, the sumptuous and centrally located Market Pavilion Hotel contains 70 beautifully appointed rooms filled with museum-quality furnishings and artwork. There's also a rooftop bar and pool affording panoramic views, and one of the best restaurants downtown, Grill 225, serving decadent steaks and Lowcountry seafood.

Around the corner, the five-story Harbourview Inn is another stunner - inside you'll find soaring ceilings, exposed-brick walls, and four-poster beds. The complimentary perks are many: Continental breakfast delivered to your room, afternoon wine and cheese, evening milk and cookies, local walking tours, and Wi-Fi. The Harbourview is part of a local hotel group that includes several other excellent properties, among them the 41-room Andrew Pinckney Inn, which occupies a beautifully restored 1840s building.

Another exceptional choice is the meticulously maintained Planters Inn, many of

continued on next page >

The Little Black Book

- Andrew Pinckney Inn (http://www.andrewpinckneyinn.com)
- Baked (http://www.bakedcharleston.com)
- Blossom (http://www.magnolias-blossom-cypress.com)
- Chai's Lounge & Tapas (http://www.chaislounge.com)
- Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau (http://www.charlestoncvb.com)
- Courtyard by Marriott Charleston Waterfront (http://www.marriott.com/chscy)
- Déjà vu II (http://www.dejavuii.com)
- Dudley's Pub (http://www.myspace.com/clubpantheon)
- Fig (http://www.eatatfig.com)
- 4 Unity Alley (http://www.unitybb.com)
- Hampton Inn Charleston Historic District (http://www.hamptoninn.com/en/hp/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=CHSHDHX)
- Harbourview Inn (http://www.harbourviewcharleston.com)
- John Rutledge House Inn (http://www.johnrutledgehouseinn.com/)
- La Fourchette (http://www.lafourchettecharleston.com)
- Market Pavilion Hotel and Grill 225 (http://www.marketpavilion.com)
- Pantheon (http://www.myspace.com/clubpantheon)
- Planters Inn (http://www.plantersinn.com)
- Poe's Tavern (http://www.poestavern.com)
- Slightly North of Broad (http://www.mavericksouthernkitchens.com/snob)
- Social Wine Bar (http://www.socialwinebar.com)
- Vickery's (http://www.vickerysbarandgrill.com)

Out of Town cont'd

whose luxurious rooms have whirlpool tubs. This courtly property overlooks City Market and is close to many galleries and shops - it's also home to the stellar Peninsula Grill restaurant. One of the city's most historic options is the John Rutledge House Inn, which has rooms in the main 1763 mansion as well as in two adjacent carriage houses. The romantic, Italianate-style main building was built by a signer of the U.S. Constitution - its rooms, with 13-foot ceilings and elaborate plaster moldings, are supremely opulent, but those in the adjoining carriage houses offer a bit more privacy.

The city has a few gay-owned B&B, including 4 Unity Alley, is a gem hidden down a tiny alley off historic Bay Street. This 18th-century former colonial warehouse, in which George Washington is said to have housed his horse for a night, contains airy, light-filled rooms with fine antiques. Keep in mind that the four guest rooms here often book up quickly - it's wise to make your reservations well in advance. Guests can relax in a sunny garden, and off-street parking and a full breakfast are included in the rates.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

Lancaster events

The Galactic Embrace
5/13/2010
Lancaster Metaphysical Chapel
What is 2012 really about? San Francisco astrologer, Linea Van Horn, will take us on a tour of ancient celestial centers, explaining how the Mayan priests recognized the coming of a visible and dramatic event in our time, what it means for humanity, and how we can best operate in this exciting time of great change.

BrewFest at Mount Hope
5/15/2010
Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire
Manheim, PA
Calling all beer fans! Come to the second annual BrewFest. There will be thirty to forty microbreweries from up and down the east coast that will be there. You can also enjoy the complimentary buffets, non stop music on two stages, cooking with beer demonstrations, keynote speakers, shopping and more! Must be 21 to attend.

First Friday!
6/4/2010
Runs from 1/1/2010 to 12/3/2010
Downtown Lancaster
Lancaster, PA
Join thousands of arts enthusiasts at Lancaster's monthly celebration of the arts. Over 70 venues present new exhibitions, performances, and spontaneous creativity.

What's Does State's Health Care Landscape Look Like?

Health care reform is now a reality, despite Pennsylvania and 13 other state attorneys general suing the federal government to overturn the new law.

Pennsylvania has issued an open "request for proposals" for the technology platform that will eventually support the establishment of Pennsylvania's Health Information Exchange. TechQuest Pennsylvania, the technology non-profit association, is credited with leading efforts to open the bidding process to all state companies.

"We are very pleased to announce that Pennsylvania has issued an open RFP for the state's health information exchange. We believe this open and transparent process will led to the best technology, pricing and implementation success," says Kelly Lewis, TechQuest Pennsylvania.

Health information technology is one of the fastest growing industry segments.

What does the health care industry in Pennsylvania look like?

- 12.44 million residents
- 2.14 million Medical Assistance recipients
- 2,000 Medical and Osteopathic Doctors
- 1,740 primary care Doctors (Among these, 19,730 are in practices of fewer than 10 practitioners. This number includes primary care physicians and certified nurse practitioners that are primary care providers.)
- 10,000 Dentists
- 4,000 Chiropractors
- 1,000 Podiatrists
- 119,000 licensed, practicing nurses
- 271 ambulatory surgery centers
- 17 psychiatric hospitals
- 27 health systems (2 or more hospitals) that represent 96 hospitals
- 700 nursing homes
- 3,600 pharmacies that represent 2800 retail and 800 hospital-based pharmacies
- 20,000 pharmacists
- 8,800 clinical and physician office laboratories
- 255 hospitals which includes 165 general acute care hospitals with an estimated 1.7 million discharges annually

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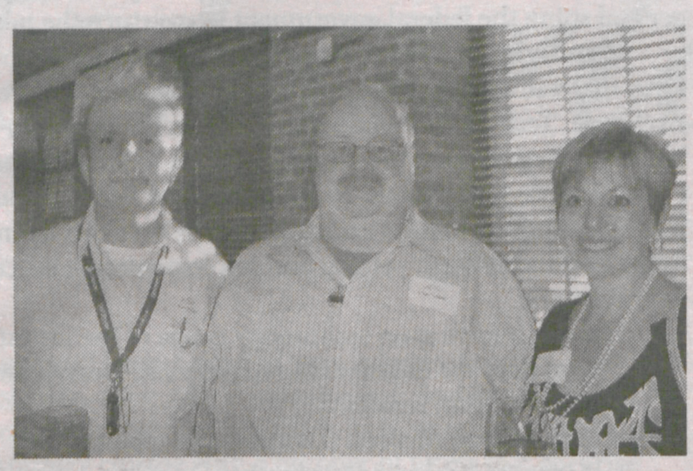
www.ChristianeDavid.com

Lancaster Arts Hotel Hosts Chamber

Nearly 60 chamber members and guests attended a recent network evening hosted by Lancaster Arts Hotel for the Central Pennsylvania Gay & and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The hotel's lobby, suites, and all rooms are filled with original works of art, many by local Pennsylvania artists. The facility offers an onsite restaurant, fitness facilities, and a central location.



Lancaster Pride June 19; Mayor Welcomes Event

Lancaster Pride is set for another lively year June 19, noon- 6 p.m. at Lancaster's Buchanan Park. The park is located near Franklin and Marshall College.

Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray formally welcomed the event to the city.

The third such event in Lancaster, the first two years drew rave reviews from a usual crowd of about 1,000 to 2,000 attendees. Organizers put together a venue that celebrates the lives of lgbtqa folks and is child and family friendly. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The outdoor festival features a mix of live entertainment, vendors booths, that run from arts and crafts to pride regalia, plus a full menu of food offerings. Local theatres, live bands as well as choirs, choruses, comedians and drag performers wow the growing crowd. Silent Witness volunteers, local police, and campus security are on hand to safely escort attendees and shield them from any potential protesters. In previous years only a handful of protestors have shown up and the venue has remained peaceful and free of incident.

Another way to help the event is by attending Isaac's Night Fundraiser, Wed., May 26, 5:30 p.m. until closing at Downtown Isaac's on Queen St. The event includes the deli's popular Pickle Bar. Lancaster Pride will also have an information and merchandise table set up on First Friday, June 4, at Building Character, 342 North Queen St. Lancaster . 5 -9 p.m.

Recently Lancaster Pride announced a partnership with the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA. The center will manage administrative duties of the pride venue in exchange for a fee-based percentage from their revenues. The event will now operate under the center's non-profit status and market itself as a "Project of the LGBT Community Center."

"We reached out to the Center to discuss ways we could work together," says Lancaster Pride co-chair, Chris Baldwin, "and they were really open to hearing our ideas and looking for a solution that would help us both. The conversations that followed were easy and thorough and we talked about everything. It was the kind of open conversations that partners have, and I'm really pleased with the outcome. I honestly think that it will make the lives of both groups better."

Center board president Ted Martin expanded on Baldwin's sentiments. "The Center is always looking for the best ways to support the community. That is our purpose and all our efforts are aimed at making this one goal tangible. This partnership with Lancaster Pride is a proud moment and it makes our mission of finding common ground for the region's lgbt community just a little more real. Plus, we are helping a great organization like Lancaster Pride grow and that's a tremendously positive feeling."

Under the agreement, the Lancaster event maintains its officers and volunteer leadership and remains in full control of the event and organization. "That's one of the key elements of the agreement" says Martin. "On a working level, the only major changes will be how Pride's banking is done and that they can now function as a non-profit organization. We really worked hard to find a way for Pride to maintain its identity, leadership, and place in the community while giving the center the ability to maintain its operational standing."

"In everything that we talked about, it seemed that the center was always interested in supporting the work that Pride was already doing. They said this repeatedly and stuck by their word," says co-chairs Chris Baldwin and Mark Stoner. "That was an important factor in making this agreement happen."

The governing body holds open community meetings and encourages attendance by anyone interested in helping out. The next meetings are Wed., May 19 and Wed. June 16, Fulton Theatre, 7-8 p.m.

The all volunteer-led event is managed by a Steering Committee comprised of Co-Chairs, Chris Baldwin, Mark Stoner; Media Contact, Anthony Lascoskie JR, Web Design, Lauren Bitner; Fundraising/Entertainment, Sue Meister; Logistics, Chris Baldwin; Vendors, Nancy Gockley; Volunteers, Erica Millner; Pageants, Whitley Nycole DeAire.

Info: http://lancasterpride.com

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AND FABULOUS LOCAL DRAG PERFORMERS!

Please visit LancasterPride.com for an updated list of entertainers and sponsors.

Special Thanks

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Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Moose Mayor's Office of Special Events

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Belvedere Inn

Lancaster City Human Relations Commission

LD Lubricants

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Tony Gibbel

Visit the Lancaster PA Pride table for Pride memorabilia, raffle items, info and more! Please do your part to keep the area clean and safe. It'll keep our cost down and make sure we can do this again next year. •Pick up trash or recyclables and place in proper receptacles. •Ignore any protesters. •Report problems quickly to Pride workers or security personnel.

Thanks to all of our talented entertainers, dedicated volunteers and supporters. Lancaster PA Pride is only possible because of the strength of our local community!

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Friends, Guests, and Visitors

On behalf of the City of Lancaster, the Mayor's Office of Special Events, and the Lancaster City Human Relations Commission, I'm pleased to have this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this year's Pride Festival.

The Lancaster Pride Festival is a time for celebration and reflection; a reminder of how far we've come, and how far we still have to go. While we celebrate a rising awareness of the need to advocate for social and economic justice for LGBT people and their families, we are also mindful of the issues that still confront the LGBT struggle for civil rights. We join you in this celebration, and we support you that struggle.

I'm proud to say that Lancaster is a City that goes far beyond "tolerance" of our LGBT neighbors; we're a City that embraces LGBT people and their families with genuine acceptance and inclusion. We're also a City that recognizes and values the members of our own large LGBT community who, each and every day, contribute to the social, cultural, intellectual, and artistic fabric of our City. Thus, I can say with enthusiasm, the City of Lancaster is enriched and honored by your presence here today.

It is my sincere hope that you will have an enjoyable visit and that you'll want to return to our great City time and time again! And if you're looking for a place to call home, you won't find a more welcoming or wonderful place than the City of Lancaster.

With best wishes,

J. Richard Gray
Mayor, City of Lancaster

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2010 Pride Festival Sponsor

Pride Festival
July 24, 2010
Riverfront Park
Harrisburg
12 - 5 pm

Main Attraction " THE DC DANCE COWBOYS "

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- Opposes adding an anti-gay "marriage amendment" to the state and federal Constitutions
- Cosponsor of the bill to ban firing people just for being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender - the bill would also cover discrimination in housing or credit (House Bill 300)
- Cosponsor of the bill to restore protection for LGBT people under Pennsylvania's hate-crimes law (House Bill 745)
- Has secured state funding for Common Roads to support programs for LGBT and questioning youth

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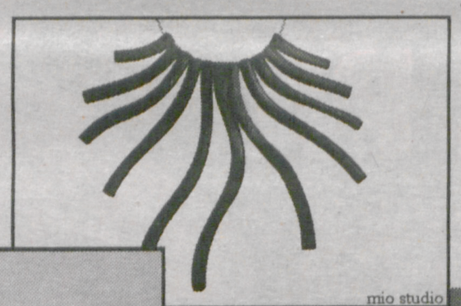

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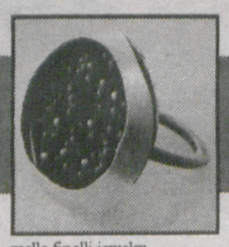

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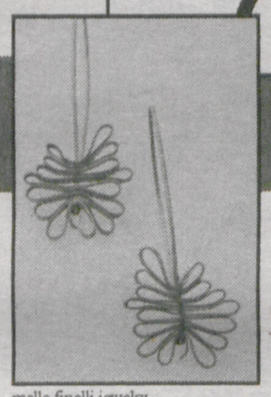

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MCC column

Faith Communities Gather in Support of Marriage Rights

By Rev. Charles Tigard
Metropolitan Community Church, Harrisburg

Recently communities from around Central Pennsylvania gathered for Freedom to Marry Week.

Metropolitan Community Church in Harrisburg was proud to host the Interfaith Service for Marriage Equality. Faith leaders representing 11 traditions gathered to affirm same-sex marriage rights.

It's important to support marriage rights in Pennsylvania even as we stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the struggle from California to Maine.

From the early 1970's Metropolitan Community Church has been on the forefront of marriage equality. MCC's founder the Rev. Troy Perry preformed some of the first same sex holy unions at MCC Los Angeles.

Troy Perry and his partner Phillip deBlick were legally married in Canada at MCC Toronto and later filed suit in their home state of California for legal recognition of their marriage. That case made its way through the court system to the California Supreme court in 2008. The case was decided in favor of marriage rights for same sex couples, prompting celebrations and ceremonies across the state.

That decision was overturned by Proposition 8 and still is still being fought in the courts today.

We are part of a movement for justice and equality, here in Central Pennsylvania and around the country.

We demand equal rights, equal protection, and equal responsibility under the law- nothing more- nothing less.

Because if there is anything we know and affirm as LGBT people, is that the ways to love are many. Love is diverse and beautiful and we serve a God that is called love.

Rev. Charles Tigard serves as Interim Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, Harrisburg. MCCoftheSpirit.org info@MCCoftheSpirit.org 717-236-7397.

Vision of Hope MCC, Mountville choir shares music during the Interfaith Service.

Osho Andrea Minick-Rudolph shares how the Buddhist tradition affirms same sex marriage rights.

Rabbi Carl Choper serves as Master of Ceremonies.

Deborah Cox Ready for Black & White Party May 7

"My joy in life is performing," Deborah Cox tells Central Voice as she sets her sights on May 7 when the Platinum crooner performs at The Black and White Party at Club XS, York, PA.

This year's theme is "Alice in Boogie Wonderland" which sets the pace for the event's talked-about inside and outside entertainment settings.

All funds raised by the Party support HIV/AIDS programs in the region through York's Family First and The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania, which funds programs throughout the entire region.

To date, the event has raised $52,000 to support local programs. The AIDS Fund is also affiliated with the National AIDS Fund (NAF) which provides matching dollars to the funds raised locally. The AIDS Fund is the only such endeavor in Pennsylvania with a "matching funds" relationship with NAF.

"Cox is the highest level of entertainment ever offered by Club XS. We're glad that the event brings her here to help us raise money to fight HIV/AIDS," says benefit lead organizer Charles Oswald. Cox's appearance is expected to draw people from Maryland, Delaware, and far outside the south central Pennsylvania region.

"When you purchase a ticket or make a donation, you dollar goes a long way with our fundraiser," Oswald says. The event draws in dozens of volunteers each year to staff the indoor and outdoor entertainment as people assemble to fight HIV.

"It breaks my heart," Cox says about HIV. "I've lost friends to this disease and the day scientists announce a cure I'm determined to be part of the announcement."

That determination harkens back to Cox's childhood days and her mother's influence on her life now.

"My mom was a calm lady with routines and that's rubbed off on me. And so has having children," she shares. Cox's three daughters are 6, 3, and 1. Her youngest child sometimes travels with her. Between her mom's influence and her artistic career Cox says "I'm a low maintenance person. I'm not a diva, not fussy."

"I have great people around me who get it done," Cox says."

Getting it done for Cox means she samples a full palette of musical tastes. Her "Destination Moon" album is a tribute to Dinah Washington, who like Cox, delved into blues, jazz, big band, and pop ballads. That partly my mom's influence there too Cox says. Her mom listened to 60s soul, Washington, Bob Marley, Lou Rawls.

Getting it done also means she makes time for herself.

Cox jumps rope on the road and does cardio exercises three times a week when time permits. "Don't overdue it," she warns, advising loving fans to find a routine that makes sense for them. Her routine includes soy and lots of vegetables. She knows what she's talking about at 5" 6', 120 lbs. – her high school size. Not perfect, her one weakness is Twizzlers.

"Let's get the job done with The Black and White Party," Cox says enthusiastically.

"Our board of directors and volunteers are pumped!" exclaims Oswald, originator of what has been called "the best party you'll ever attend". Man Behind the Curtain Productions is helping The Black and White Party, Inc to produce the entertainment this year.

"Chris Quigley, who directs the inside entertainment, and Chad-Alan Carr who will direct the outside entertainment, are ready to wow the pants off of you!" Oswald says. Past performers have included RuPaul, CeeCee Peniston, and Sarah Bernhardt.

Tickets online: https://www.mycommunitytickets.com/event_info.asp?eventid=26424 or call 717-846-6969. Info: www.theblackandwhiteparty.com.

book review

Lambda Literary Awards Note Best in LGBT Authors

By Lewis Maurer
Dauphin County Library System

The 22nd Annual Lambda Literary Awards will be held Thursday, May 27th, 2010 at the School of Visual Arts Theater in New York City. The titles listed below are nominated in the Gay Fiction, Lesbian Fiction and Transgender Categories. Please follow this link for the full roster of nominations in all categories: http://www.lambdaliterary.org/awards/awards-finalists/

Lesbian Fiction
Dismantled, by Jennifer McMahon (HarperCollins)
A Field Guide to Deception, by Jill Malone (Bywater Books)
Forgetting the Alamo, Or, Blood Memory, by Emma Pérez (University of Texas Press)
Risk, by Elana Dykewomon (Bywater Books)
This One's Going to Last Forever, by Nairne Holtz (Insomniac Press)
Gay Fiction
Lake Overturn, by Vestal McIntyre (HarperCollins)
The River In Winter, by Matt Dean (Queens English Productions)
Said and Done, by James Morrison (Black Lawrence Press)
Salvation Army, by Abdellah Taia (Semiotext(e))
Silverlake, by Peter Gadol (Tyrus Books)

Lesbian Debut Fiction
The Creamsickle, by Rhiannon Argo (Spinsters Ink)
The Bigness of the World, by Lori Ostlund (University of Georgia Press)
Land Beyond Maps, by Maida Tilchen (Savvy Press)
More of This World or Maybe Another, by Barb Johnson (Harper Perennial)
Verge, by Z Egloff (Bywater Books)

Gay Debut Fiction
Blue Boy, by Rakesh Satyal (Kensington Books)
God Says No, by James Hannaham (McSweeneys)
Pop Salvation, by Lance Reynald (HarperCollins)
Shaming the Devil: Collected Short Stories, by G. Winston James (Top Pen Press)
Sugarless, by James Magruder (University of Wisconsin Press)

Transgender
Bharat Jiva, by Kari Edwards (Litmus Press)
Lynnee Breedlove's One Freak Show, by Lynn Breedlove (Manic D Press)
The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You, by S Bear Bergman (Arsenal Pulp Press)
Transmigration, by Joy Ladin (Sheep Meadow Press)
Troglodyte Rose, by Adam Lowe (Cadaverine Publications)

The first Lambda Literary Awards were presented in 1989. If a book has a gold sticker saying 'Winner of the Lambda Literary Award' on its cover, you know it is both brilliantly written and a meaningful examination of the LGBTQ experience.

REVIEWS | BOOKS DVDs CDs

Housewives
Kim Zolciak of Bravo TV's The Real Housewives of Atlanta has released the remixes of her hit single, Tardy for the Party, via Ferosh Records. "Music has always been my passion in life and I have always wanted to record," said Zolciak. "My daughter Brielle and her vocal coach Ed Davidson came up with the idea for Tardy for the Party.

Estelle
Fans recently saw the World Premiere of Estelle's new video for "Freak", directed by Nabil Elderkin. The piece is produced by David Guetta and is off of Estelle's new album "All of Me", out now.

Kelis
"Acapella," the first single from Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Kelis' forthcoming album, Flesh Tone, is now available. "The 'Milkshake' temptress returns with another tall glass of delicious – and this disco-tipped track from her upcoming album is a feathery dance-floor delight.

Lucy Woodward
"I wanted to make a modern-day torch record," Lucy Woodward says of her Verve Records debut Hooked!, which finds the New York-bred singer-songwriter achieving a remarkable creative rebirth by reembracing her early musical roots. Woodward made her first impression on the national scene with her 2003 debut album While You Can and her bubbly pop hit "Dumb Girls."

Open Stage Offers Summer Classes

Open Stage of Harrisburg offers summer courses. The studio and school is a training program dedicated to developing the student's skill, knowledge, and appreciation of the process of acting and the making of theatre.

The school believes that every student, of any age and ability, should experience personal and artistic growth. Students participate in ensemble work within an environment that supports everyone's contributions. Above all, every student is encouraged to use his or her personal experiences, perspectives, and unique personality to uncover the many layers of creativity.

"Tween" Scene: Ages 8 – 12, M-F, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Session I: June 28 - July 2
Theatre Games
Session II: July 5 - 9
Creating Characters
Session III: July 12 - 16
Musical Theatre Singing & Staging
Three weeks of dramatic play for "tween"-agers culminating in a sharing session.
Class exercises build improvisation skills, characterization, and musical theatre abilities.
Students may take any or all weeks of classes.
Tuition is $150 per week. ($130 for early bird registration)
Music Theatre Workshop 2010
Ages 12 – 18; M-F, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
July 19 - August 6
Admission by Audition only.
Students spend three intensive weeks in acting, singing, and dance classes, then perform the best of Broadway. Includes a New York field trip and a workshop in the Big Apple!
Performances: Thursday, August 5, 2010 at 7 and 8:30 PM
Tuition is $450 for the three week class. ($430 for early bird registration)
Info: 717-214-3250; education@openstagehbg.com.

The 5 Browns Appear May 4

The 5 Browns "classical music's first family of piano virtuosos" have conquered the music scene with sold-out performances worldwide. Through their critically acclaimed live concerts, the quintet has redefined what it means to be classical musicians.

The twenty-something siblings, Ryan, Melody, Gregory, Deondra and Desirae, caught their first wave of fame in 2002 when People magazine dubbed them the "Fab Five," in addition to appearing on Oprah and 60 Minutes that same year.

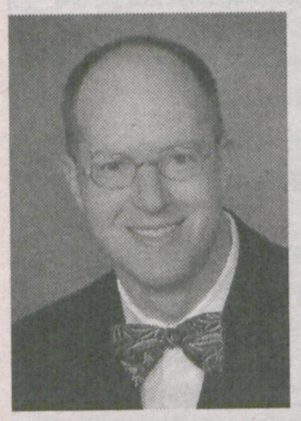
The Utah natives have continued to sweep the nation with their amazing talent and the classical music charts; first with the release of their 2005 self-titled debut, which spent 8 weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Classical chart. The following year, No Boundaries, also earned a No. 1 slot on the charts and remained for 21 weeks. The quintet's latest effort, Brown In Blue, features classical and jazz-inspired piano music, showcasing both individual and collective mastery of the piano and classical repertoires.

Aside from The 5 Browns' national success, they have also garnered the attention of fans in the U.K., Japan, Korea, France, and Germany. Whether performing individually or together in various combinations from duo to complex five-piano arrangements, The 5 Browns bring a fresh energy and dynamic character to their outstanding performances.

Info: May 4, 7 p.m., Whitaker Center, Tickets $35 & $45; whitakercenter.org; 717/214-ARTS.

legal column

Every Parent Needs a Guardian



By Leo L. Dunn

Are you, or a friend, the parent of a minor child? If so, you need a will that contains a guardianship provision that states who is to have custody of your minor child(ren) in the event you and your partner/spouse become deceased. Pennsylvania law has guardianship questions decided "in the best interests of the child," but gives preference for natural or adoptive parents, adult siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles. If you do not want to leave guardianship decisions up to the court, you need to put your directions in writing.

Young expectant parents should execute wills before the child is born. One never knows when a traffic accident may occur. I gained a great-niece a few years ago because a three week old child's parents died in a tragic auto accident. My niece was engaged to be married to the child's uncle so they took custody about 6 weeks prior to their wedding and started adoption proceedings. She's a beautiful young girl and a great addition to the family, but her early twenty-something parents did not plan for her future. Luckily, this situation worked out. Often parents assume that if they die their spouse will take care of the children, but never give a thought to what happens if they both die simultaneously.

A simple will can take care of this issue.

That the two parents cannot decide on who should get the children is not a good excuse to delay. If the children are under twelve, a suggestion is for each parent to name a different guardian in their will with a provision noting that if they die simultaneously the grandparents are to share custody or the executor is to choose a guardian from amongst three potentials listed in the will. Not perfect, but at least it provides clear direction.

If the children are over twelve, the parents should create a joint list of three or four potential guardians and let the child(ren) decide the order of preference. While this may not seem like the best option to parents, it will generally avoid children running away from a guardian they dislike. Remember, you are trying to protect your child not cause them to dislike their home environment. If you have one person they want to live with but who is not someone to trust with money, let the person have physical custody, but put your assets into a pour-over trust and give control of the trust to your financially dependable selection.

Gay and lesbian parents are even more at risk than straight parents. Thankfully, Pennsylvania allows for second parent adoptions. This is a highly recommended action. But even with this, lgbt parents need to have wills that provide for guardianship in the event they perish together.

On the other end of life, every person needs to name who will be their guardian in the event they can no longer take care of themselves. Thus, make sure your parents have power of attorneys and wills that provide for their personal guardianship.

It comes down to my normal closing: every adult needs a will, health care directive/living will, and a financial power of attorney. Have you got yours?

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in Harrisburg with a focus on the estate planning needs of the lgbt community. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com

Molly Shane Named Whitaker Center Development Director

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts Board of Directors recently appointed Molly Shane, CFRE as Director of Development. Shane leads the center's entire fundraising effort, including membership, special events and an active volunteer program.

"Molly Shane brings a breadth of successful experience in development within education and arts organizations, as well as strong academic credentials in fundraising and arts administration to her new assignment at Whitaker Center," said Dr. Michael Hanes, Whitaker Center President and CEO.

Shane began her career in arts administration before transitioning full-time into fundraising for a variety of not-for-profit organizations in the region and Indianapolis, Indiana. She has held positions with the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians & Foundation, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Indianapolis Zoo, Dance Kaleidoscope and Young Audiences Indiana. She resides in Carlisle with her husband Joe, a professor of chemistry and science education at Shippensburg University.

"Having spent so much of my life and career involved in the arts and now being married to a science educator, I am excited to have the opportunity to work toward advancing the mission of one of the mid-state's finest institutions for the arts and science education," Shane says.

ARTS at 510 Presents Two-Man Show

Susan Schreckengaust, owner of Arts at 510, presents an exhibit featuring paintings, woodworks and collaborative works by Brogue residents Kevin Miller and Robert Allen, running through May 18.

Kevin Miller and Robert Allen must have wild dreams at night. Perhaps during the day as well, as both are highly talented and diverse in their creations. Together they founded Allen Miller Arts (www.allenmillerarts.com) in 1997 to produce independent and collaborative works. Robert's keen eye on detail shines in his fine inlaid hardwood medallions, custom designed furniture, many forms of wood art, gazebo design and construction as well as pond and stream, garden design and construction. Kevin's paintings and prints, stained glass design, remodeling and interior services, sculpture, and his design services for garden, stream and pond and gazebo units are the perfect match.

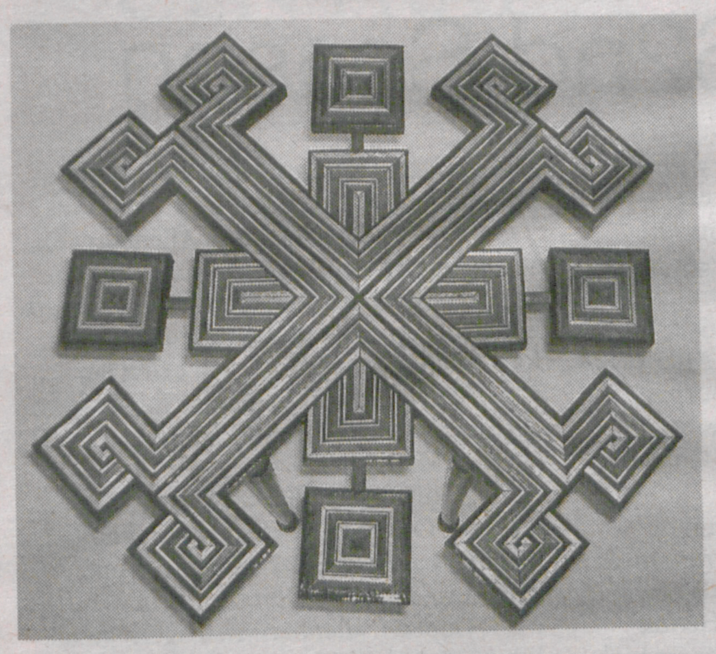
Bravo Walking Proudly in Our Winter Coats, 2010, Graphic Cubism, by Kevin Miller- 11" x 14" acrylic on canvas

Miller presents diverse pieces rarely seen style at area galleries. His Graphic Cubism style in "Walking Proudly in Our Winter Coats," the Provence style in "Calla Lilies," and his Fantasy style in other works, clearly demonstrate his commercial graphic skills. Most of his works will be acrylic on canvas, as well as a few oils. His ability at capturing the slice of life is impeccable, striking and refreshing.

Calla Lilies, Provence Style by Kevin Miller - 20" x 24" acrylic on canvas

According to Kevin, "Graphic Cubism is an effort to reduce people, animals, objects and environments to their fundamental geometric shapes and colors while heightening the dynamic interaction and tension among them. Minimal detailing allows for bold statements that focus the viewer on the feeling and experience of the moment pictured in each painting, which many people have shared."

Included in the exhibit are collaborative pieces that Allen and Miller teamed up to produce rarely if ever seen in art history — 2-man paintings. Allen produces highly energetic, colorful, gestural backgrounds. Then Miller paints exotic fantasy worlds, mysterious animals, people and objects as a second layer, incorporating and exposing much of Robert's original abstract expressionist work. The resulting canvases are visually unusual and compelling and are signed "Allen Miller," combining the last names of the two artists.



Aztec Satellite Table, Wood Art by Robert Allen

Allen's wood art is a production of patience and expertise. Although his tables and inlaid works appear to have added colors, they are au natural. The wood reveals an inherent beauty that shines through both in its color and intricate design.

Info: ARTS at 510, 510 North Third Street, Harrisburg, open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 717.724.0364; www.artsat510.com.

Hamilton Health Center's HIV Testing Day June 24

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day, an annual campaign coordinated by the National Association of People with AIDS to encourage people of all ages to "Take the Test, Take Control." Locally, Hamilton Health Center's HOPE Program is sponsoring an event in recognition of this day on Thursday June 24. For more information call 717-230-3949.

Early HIV diagnosis is critical, so people who are infected can fully benefit from available life-saving treatments. Currently, almost 40 percent of people with HIV are not diagnosed until they already have developed AIDS. That can be up to 10 years after they first became infected with HIV. Finding out whether you are infected with HIV is the first step to improving your health and the health of your partners and your family.

Dr. Arthur L. Williams, Hamilton Health Center's HIV specialist, has treated over 2,000 people with HIV/AIDS. "I'm an internist, oncologist, and an HIV Specialist. In 1996, as the HIV crisis grew, I made a life change and decided to stop giving chemotherapy and devote my specialty time to treating HIV," Williams says. He is a national speaker, including the Centers for Disease Control, and has conducted numerous clinical trials for HIV medications. Williams was instrumental in making change within Pennsylvania's Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program to include medications covering all aspects of HIV's disease processes.

Currently, the new CDC guidelines, recommend every person aged 13-65 be tested for HIV at their annual physical. The new guidelines also update when individuals should consider starting treatment for HIV. "The CD4 count, the cells that help fight infection, has been moved to a higher count, much higher than ever before. This happened, as a result of the

fact that within one year of their HIV diagnosis, people who did not go on HIV medications advanced to AIDS," Williams explains.

"The incredible new combinations of medications have far fewer pills and are much better tolerated. We are able to give people a long and healthy life. Our hope by doing HIV testing so frequently is that we are able to get people on medications before their immune system is damaged, as is reflected in the decision by the CDC, to recommend treatment at higher CD4 levels," Williams says.

Unsafe sex remains a problem.

"The big issue is getting people to stop having unsafe sex. Many of our young are having anonymous sexual encounters through meeting people on the internet, sex parties. This is incredibly dangerous because they do not know their partners' past sexual history. Consequently, they're becoming infected not only with HIV, but Chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes and venereal warts. They are taking incredible health risks for the sake of a memory that will fade. After all, a sexual encounter is only a memory," Williams says.

Further complicating matters, many people have untreated psychological issues, such as depression or bipolar disorder. "Some are making these poor decisions under the influence of drugs such as crack cocaine, crystal meth, marijuana, and alcohol. At the HOPE Program, we take a holistic approach, providing help in all of these areas. We help get people into drug and alcohol treatment or mental health programs, and give whatever support they need to the best of our abilities," Williams stresses.

"One of the scariest statistics is that young African American and Hispanic men who have sex with men and are between ages 15 and 25 are the fastest growing population of new HIV infections," Williams points out.

The South Central PA region ranks 2nd in the Commonwealth in cases of HIV/AIDS

- Of the 7 counties that we serve, 3 are in the top 10 high incidence counties across the state. The AIDS Fund serves Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Perry, Lancaster and York counties.
- Approximately 29% of those living with HIV/AIDS in the region are injection drug users.
- The highest-risk populations for HIV/AIDS are heterosexual women, youth aged 13-24, injection drug users, and men who have sex with men (MSM). Communities of color, specifically African Americans and Hispanics, have disproportionately higher rates of HIV/AIDS.
- Nationally, African Americans accounted for over half (51%) of the estimated number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses made during 2007, followed by whites (29%) and Hispanic/Latinos (18%).
- Nationally, persons aged 40-49 accounted for the largest proportion of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases (27%). Persons aged 30-39 were the second largest proportion (26%), followed closely by persons aged 20-29 (25%).

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2007) and PA Dept. of Health (2009)

Allenberry Playhouse Opens 62nd Season

In 61 years, the Allenberry Playhouse has had only two producers, John Heinze and his father before him, the late Charles A.B. Heinze. Last year John retired but the tradition continues with his brother, Jere Heinze taking over as Producer. Jere has grown up at Allenberry and has been involved in many capacities, to name a few, acting on the stage, Murder Mystery Producer, and General Manger.

Jere Heinze and his new team of theatre professionals have added new ideas and energy to Allenberry's long history of professional theatre. But, as Jere Heinze states: "We are committed to the same high standards that our audiences have been experiencing for 61 years!"

New to his position as Allenberry's Managing Artistic Director, Jack O'Bryan, has been involved in theatre for many years. Longtime member of the Board of Directors, Jan Endrizzi Wilson will bring her expertise as General Manager. The multi-talented Michelle Rux will fill the position of Stage Manager.

Returning to the staff this year, is Michelle O'Bryan, resident choreographer, and Mary Anne Heinze Murtoff in the Playhouse Business Office.

Contact: allenberrymanager@gmail.com; 717-960-5267; www.allenberry.com

Celebrate Your Healthy Choices

By Steven Palmer

The other day, in a town hall meeting focused on addressing the health disparities we experience as members of the lgbt community, a panelist said something that was profound and simple at the same time. While we have been battling to gain healthcare access and essential services to address the unique health needs that our community has, our discussions always focus on the negative whether those be rates of STDs or cancer, the prevalence of depression in our community or our community's high level of cigarette smoking.

The statistics and realities are there. For example, Men who have Sex with Men (Gay, Bi and men who do not identify with any special label) are being infected at rates much higher than their heterosexual counterparts. The latest reports indicating that the infection rate may be almost twice as high. In Washington, DC recent studies estimate that 46% of gay and bisexual men in the District may be living with HIV. While this data is certainly important and serves as a necessary alarm calling us to do something to address this troubling trend, our focus tends to rest solely upon those who have contracted the virus.The panelist challenged us to look at the flip side of the coin. Instead of focusing solely upon what changes we need to influence in order to slow rates of infection, why not take a moment to celebrate members of the community who are making healthy choices?

In the example of the high rates of HIV among MSM living in Washington DC, why shouldn't we take a moment to recognize the life decisions and choices of the 54% who are not infected and have avoided infection. Life is ultimately about the choices we make and our ability to weigh the options in front of us.

During the month of June, Men4Men: A Project of ACA will be offering a new opportunity to the community, a unique chance for gay and bisexual men to come together to talk about life, relationships and sex. Called Healthy Relationships, the program allows members of the community to learn from one another as they explore the choices they have made and the lifestyle decisions they envision making in the future. If you are interested in participating please call 1.800.867.1550 for more information.

Contact: Steven Palmer @ steven@aca-pa.com; 717-233-7190. M4M is a component of AIDS Community Alliance.

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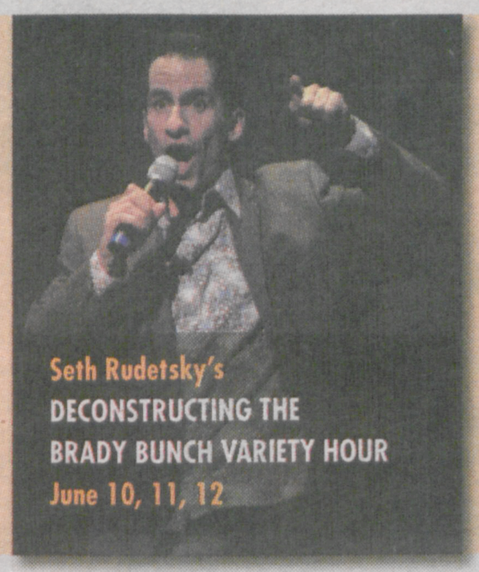
Dorea Schmidt's intriguing work in progress *at water's edge: confessions of an obsessive mind*

June 3 & 4



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AIDS Community Alliance presents:

LGBT HEALTH PRIORITIES

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For more information or to RSVP please call AIDS Community Alliance 1.800.867.1550 or email lgbthealth@aca-pa.com

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WHY A WILL IS A MUST:

1) In Pennsylvania, if you die without a Will or a spouse, your estate will pass to the surviving family line until your estate goes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. *(Title 20 Decedent, Estates and Fiduciaries, Chapter 21)*

2) Your surviving partner may end up with nothing and may even have to go to court to prove ownership of property that was rightfully theirs.

3) As for funeral arrangements, if you do not give specific instructions, your partner will not have any legal right to carry out your wishes and could even be barred from the funeral services. Funeral arrangements made in advance will add weight to your wishes.

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5) Please see our website for further information.

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Red Party Raises $2,400 for Lancaster Pride and AIDS Community Alliance

In a collaborative effort, the Red Party raised $2,400 benefitting Lancaster Pride and AIDS Community Alliance. 288 people attended. Held at Lancaster's Chamelion Club "The event was a fabulous success," says co-organizer Erica Millner, adding co-organizer Cindy Vincente had a vision for the Red Party. "With the help of Lancaster Pride, DJ Image, AIDS Community Alliance, local drag queens and volunteers we created an amazing event," Millner says. Chamelion Club's Greg Barley donated the space. Over 30 local businesses and artists donated items for the silent auction.

Photos by Tony Gibble Photography

Food Not Bombs Says One Local Group

By Frank Pizzoli

Americans toss out 40% of all food, says the Food Not Bombs web site. Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the internationally recognized organization now has a revived local Harrisburg chapter.

> ***"We need more local volunteers to help us"***
> ***Chris Siennick***

"We like to make good use of food that might normally go to waste," says Gavin Paul, of the Harrisburg-based FNB group. The organization, according to its web site, is one of the fastest growing revolutionary movements and is gaining momentum throughout the world.

"We feed mostly men between the age of 20 and 50," he says. Some are veterans. Some are homeless, with and without jobs. "Some of our guys have a place to live and a job but they just cannot afford to buy food," he says.

There have been a few groups in the past that started FNB's in Harrisburg. "They all disbanded after awhile," explains Amanda Zogby, a local key player in the effort.

"This past summer, through Central Dauphin High School's Students for a Democratic Society, we decided to try to organize FNB once again," she says. The local group gets food from the leftovers at Broadstreet Market and from Shenk's Bakery.

Formed in 1980 in Cambridge, Massachusetts by anti-nuclear activists, the grassroots movement is active throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australia. The collective is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to nonviolent social change. Activists organize for peace and an end to the occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine.

The group is controversial. The San Francisco chapter has been arrested over 1,000 times. Amnesty International has adopted FNB volunteers convicted as "Prisoners of Conscience." Their mission speaks of nonviolence still U.S. activists have been under investigation by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Pentagon and other intelligence agencies. A number of volunteers have been arrested on terrorism charges, according to the web site. No clarification of the nature of the charges is offered.

But here in the region FNB volunteers feed the hungry.

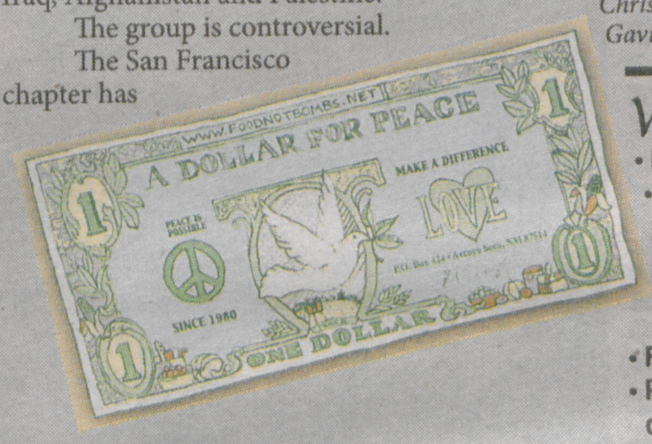
"There are hundreds of autonomous chapters sharing free vegetarian food with hungry people and protesting war and poverty," explains Zogby.

Each group recovers food that would otherwise be thrown out and makes fresh hot vegan and vegetarian meals that are served in outside in public spaces to anyone without restriction. "We cook each Monday at 4 p.m. and serve meals at 6 p.m.,' says Chris Siennick. They then proceed to Harrisburg's downtown square to dispense meals.

"We need more local volunteers to help us," Siennick says.

Info: Local - harrisburgfoodnotbombs@gmail.com; 717-884-9463; FNB - 1-800-884-1136; menu@foodnotbombs.net; www.foodnotbombs.net

Chris Siennick, Amanda Zogby and Gavin Paul.



Wish List . . .

- Big crock pot
- Big plastic bin to carry plates
- Plastic sign/banner
- Socks, blankets
- Coffee, tea, cocoa
- Foldable table
- Personal care – toothbrushes, deodorant, soap

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Ricky Martin Comes Out

Ricky Martin

Putting to rest consistent rumors about his sexual orientation, Ricky Martin announced on his blog he is "a fortunate homosexual man."

"I am very blessed to be who I am," the Puerto Rican singer wrote.

Martin spoke out against Jorge Steven López Mercado's death in an op-ed el Nuevo Dia published on Dec. 20. And in what appears to have been a potential prelude to his own personal torment, he wrote mere tolerance of those who are different is simply not enough.

Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado

Central Voice reported (Jan-Feb) on Jorge Steven López Mercado's gruesome death near Cayey last November. Since then Puerto Rican authorities have charged a local man with first-degree murder and four other counts in connection with his death. Following the incident more than a thousand people marched through the streets of San Juan to pay tribute to Mercado and to demand an end to hate crimes.

"If we accept each other, humanity will come together," Martin said.

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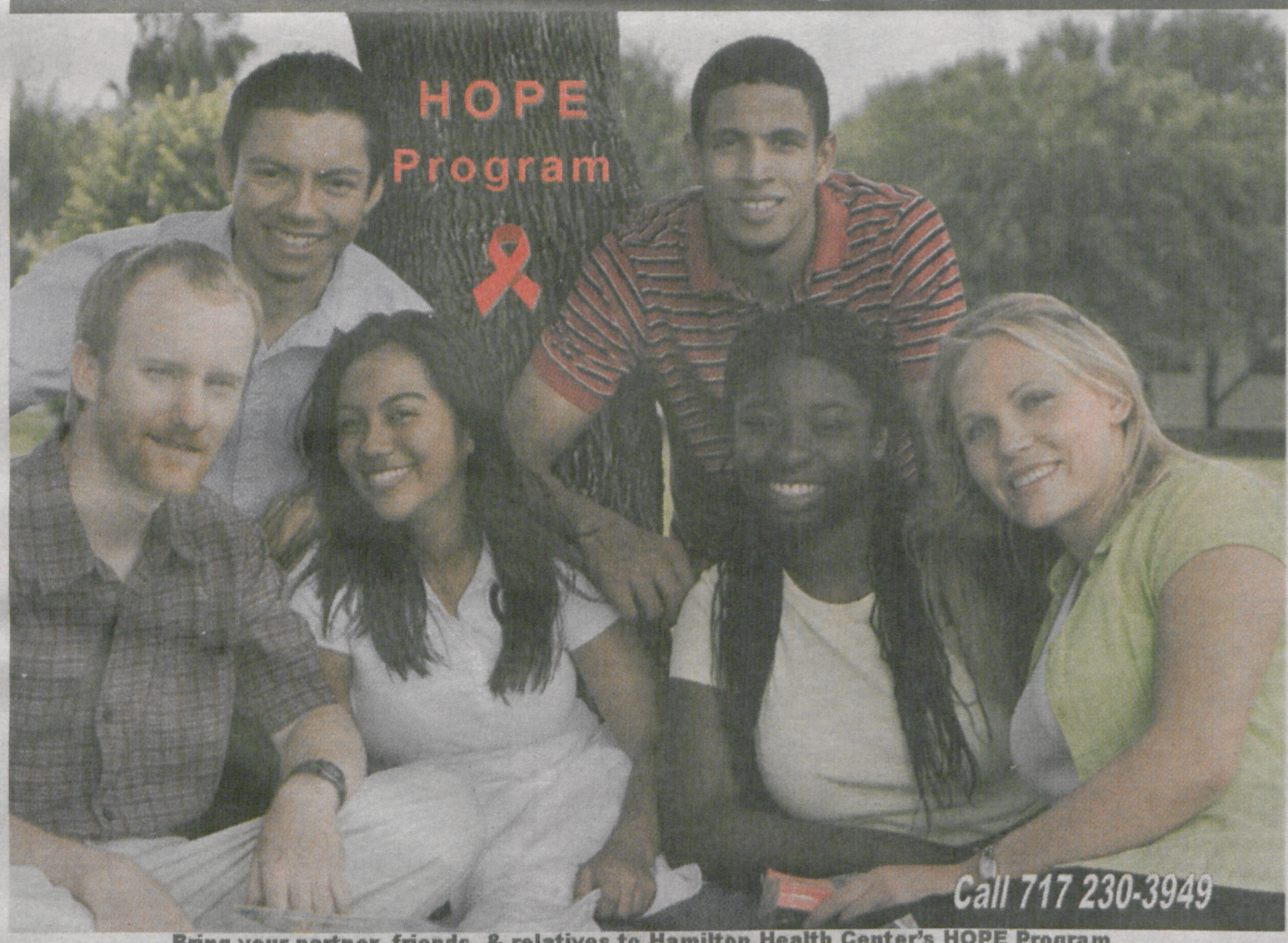

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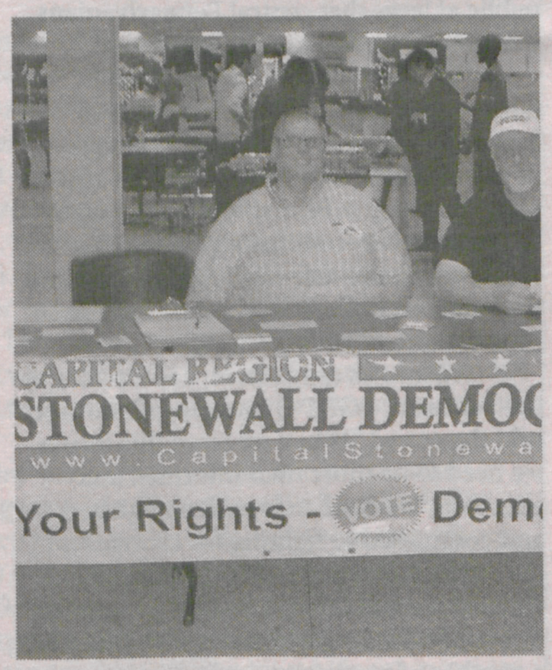
250 Jam HACC Same-sex Marriage Debate

Harrisburg Area Community College hosted an audience of 250 for a lively but civil same-sex marriage debate March 24. Debaters were Pennsylvania state Sen. Daylin Leach, an avid supporter of same-sex marriage and sponsor of legislation allowing for same-sex marriage, and Maggie Gallagher, president of the National Organization for Marriage.

The first portion of the debate was moderated by WITF's Scott Detrow. The second half of the discussion featured a question and answer period facilitated by HACC senior professor of English Trum Simmons.



coming out column

When a Straight Guy Asks a Lesbian Out?

By Steven Petrow

When a straight guy asks a lesbian out?

Q: I could use some help in understanding proper etiquette when a heterosexual fellow asks me out thinking that I'm a straight woman. What can I say?

A: If you missed the wonderful cartoon on this subject in the New Yorker recently, let me repeat the caption, since it's brilliant. Straight guy asks lesbian out, and she replies: "Thanks, but I'm in the middle of a lesbian phase that started the day I was born." If you're prepared to be out, a dollop of humor will take you far. A line of that kind delivered with warmth (as opposed to snottiness) definitely counts as "proper."

Are older gay men "cougars" or "daddies?"

Q: I'm in my mid-40s and have started dating a guy who is about 20 years younger than me. While it's practically trendy these days for cougars (older women) to be pursuing younger straight men, I'm getting a lot of flack from my friends that my boyfriend's not "age-appropriate" for me. What is most insulting is how my friends dismiss him in social situations as a "kid" (even though he's a Fulbright Scholar) and me as a "daddy," which he doesn't need or want and which is a role I would never play. They also just assume that I've pursued him and that I'm "robbing the cradle." That's actually not the case. He came after me. I'm frustrated and need to know how to handle all these raised eyebrows and sharp words.

A: Did you know that the general rule of thumb for so-called age-appropriate relationships is half your age plus seven? So, given what you've told me, you're very close to a mathematically correct relationship. But, really, so what? The most important thing is that you've found someone you care for and that those feelings are reciprocated.

As for your friends mouthing off about your age difference, I can only guess that it's some combination of envy ("he's got a young, hot one"), caring ("as soon as he grows up, he'll leave you with a broken heart") or the slimy cultural residue from Donald Trump's numerous age-inappropriate marriages. But don't forget the many happy "age inappropriate" gay couples: writer Christopher Isherwood and painter Don Bachardy (30 years between them) and playwright Terrence McNally and lawyer Tom Kirdahy (25 years). In any case, it sounds like you need to speak up, though not in front of your boyfriend. Be clear with your friends that you expect them to treat him with respect and that their jokes about you being a "daddy" have worn themselves thin. Good friends will follow your lead. Bad friends can be asked to make for the door. Of course, "daddy/boy" relationships have a long and not necessarily sordid history in gay culture, but whether or not there is that dynamic, it's nobody's business to make a judgment. Honestly, it's hard enough to find a compatible boyfriend or girlfriend, so congratulations to you both. And don't forget Julie Andrews' memorable lyrics from the Sound of Music: "Love is where you find it."

Can kids grow up "normal" in a gay home?

Q: My sister is a born-again Christian and the mother of five. She constantly tells me that my partner and I are going to have really messed up kids because we're lesbians. We definitely do want children. And last week my sister said to us: "How could a child grow up to be normal in a gay household?" What in the world do I say to her?

A: Well, it depends how available your sister is to having her mind changed. You could explain to her that all the research shows that children of lesbians and gays turn out just as well as other kids and that there's no evidence to suggest that lesbians and gay men are unfit to be parents. It's also true that one's sexuality does not make for a good or bad parent; what matters most is your ability to create a loving and caring environment.

But the truth is that you may not actually resolve this issue until you have a chance to show her by example. I'm going to guess that the day your sister sees that your kids are pretty much like any other kids is the day she'll understand. Knowing gay people—and in cases such as this one, knowing the children of gays and lesbians—seems to be the number one factor when folks who started out homophobic decide to finally accept lgbt folks.

Still, it sounds like your kids are still some way off, and not available for such a "demonstration." So, if she won't do some reading on her own or listen to your protestations, tell her politely that the topic is off bounds. It's called setting boundaries. Then, once you've decided to get pregnant or adopt, let her know the good news in person and suggest she attend a meeting with PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays: check out their site at pflag.org). And don't forget to make sure she's invited to your baby shower!

Steven Petrow writes for The Huffington Post and Daily Beast. If you have a LGBT manners question, send it to him at queeries@live.com. And check him out on the web at gayandlesbianmanners.com.

Lancaster City Tackles Discrimination

By Frank Pizzoli

"Our goal was to promote awareness, not have a debate," says Linda Martin, secretary of the Lancaster City Human Relations Commission.

Martin is referring to House Bill 300, legislation that would amend the state Human Relations Act by prohibiting discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Commission chair Heather Moyer, a law student at Penn State-Dickinson, supports the statewide move to include lgbt citizens with equal protections.

About 200 hundred people showed up March 8 in Lancaster to hear a commission-sponsored panel discuss the measure.

"We in Lancaster City are fortunate to have already enacted the provisions in H.B. 300," added Mark Stoner, chair of the board of directors of the Lancaster City Human Relations Commission. "We want all the citizens of Lancaster County and of our state to be equally protected from discrimination."

"House Bill 300 does statewide what we've had here in Lancaster since 1991, which is prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation," said Lancaster mayor Rick Gray, speaking at a press conference outside City Hall.

"Many people think that it is already prohibited," Gray said of the law, which exists in 16 municipalities in Pennsylvania and in 21 other states. Everyone deserves to be shown the same level of respect and tolerance, the mayor said.

Photo courtesy of Mark Stoner

"The idea that Pennsylvania is 'Philadelphia and Pittsburgh with Alabama in the middle' is not an accurate picture of our state and doesn't give 'the middle' enough credit," said Becca Glenn, Community Organizer for the ACLU of Pennsylvania.

"The number of people who attended this forum reflects that. In fact, a poll done two years ago by Susquehanna Polling and Research showed that 66% of people in the south central part of the state support anti-discrimination legislation to protect lgbt Pennsylvanians at work. What we need to do is be more vocal about it and change the perception among our legislators and the public at large that central Pennsylvanians will not accept this kind of legislation."

"H. B. 300 is about equality and fairness and offering the same rights to everyone, which is a founding principle of our country," said Glenn, "But it's also important step if Pennsylvania is going to be competitive economically with other states, which are able to attract the best and the brightest to their workforce, regardless of sexual orientation."

Adanjesus (AJ) Marin, coordinator of the Lancaster LGBT Organizing Committee told the crowd "When we leave this forum we need to be more than informed and educated. We need to leave here agitated and committed to fighting for change."

The Lancaster LGBT Organizing Committee was formed in 2009 in reaction to Maine vote on gay marriage. At that time a number of participants asked for a way to organize and take the next steps to fight for equality.

"The sad fact is today the majority of the state's lgbt people are living under a modern Jim Crow system." Jim Crow laws were state and local laws enacted between 1876 and 1965. They mandated racial segregation in all public facilities, with a supposedly "separate but equal" status for black Americans. In reality, this led to treatment and accommodations that were usually inferior to those provided for white Americans, systematizing a number of economic, educational and social disadvantages.

"We can legally be denied employment, promotion, and housing simply for who we are and who we love. H. B 300 would end this Jim Crow situation," Marin said.

Introduced by Rep. Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny County), the civil rights measure drew a record 79 co-sponsors from both parties and from across the commonwealth. In March 2009, the House State Government Committee sent the controversial legislation to the full House for a vote. No action was taken.

Currently, federal and state laws fail to protect Pennsylvanians against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Fourteen municipalities in PA have already enacted the provisions in H.B. 300: Allentown, Easton, Erie County, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lansdowne, New Hope, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Swarthmore, West Chester and York. In those parts of the state where these protections are not in place, however, it is legal to refuse a housing rental or much-needed job to a resident simply because the applicant is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

Twenty states in the country have similar laws, including our neighboring states of New Jersey, Maryland and New York.

Panelists included Stephen A. Glassman, Chair, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Rep. Michael Sturla, Lancaster City; Rep. Frankel, Pittsburgh; and Rep. Babette Josephs, Philadelphia, chair, Pennsylvania House State Government Committee; Rev. Susan Minasian, chaplain, Franklin and Marshall College; Attorney Franklin A. Miles, Jr.; Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company; Gray, Lancaster mayor; with Louise Williams, Lancaster City Council moderating.

Event co-sponsors were Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PA Human Relations Commission, SEIU Healthcare PA, ACLU of Pennsylvania, Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and the Lancaster LGBT Organizing Committee.

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DADT Grinder

continued from page 1

that Newsome was not cooperative when they showed up at her home to serve her partner with the warrant. "They called me several times that day. I was at work, 15-20 minutes away, and couldn't leave. I didn't interfere with the police doing their work and I don't know what their work has to do with my personal life, the fact that I'm married to a woman," Newsome says.

"The police have released different statements about how they first saw our marriage license," Newsome says. One report says officers spotted the marriage license on the kitchen table through a window of Newsome's home. "The size of the print on the license is about 6 or 8 point, a small size letter. I'm not sure anyone could read the license through a window," Newsome says.

In a statement released to the AP, Rapid City Police Chief Steve Allender said his department alerted the base because the marriage license was relevant to the investigation. In subsequent media interviews, he said the document showed both the relationship and residency of the two women.

"I just don't agree with what the police department did. They violated a lot of internal policies on their end, and I feel like my privacy was violated," Newsome says.

"I always played by DADT," she says, adding "I never told anyone in the military I'm a lesbian.

Consequently, Newsome contacted the American Civil Liberties Union - South Dakota in February and filed a complaint against the police department. The complaint claims police had no legal reason to tell the military Newsome is a lesbian and that officers knew if they did, it would jeopardize her military career.

Robert Doody, ACLU - South Dakota executive director says "One aspect of the case is the ability of third parties, like the police department, to 'out' service members." That's why, he explains, "we filed a complaint with the police department not the military."

At press time, Doody had not received a formal reply from police although he says "I've heard third hand it was denied."

Doody's legal intervention does not directly involve the military's DADT policy, now under review by Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Instead, as Doody clarifies, his complaint focuses directly on the police department. The ACLU theory of the case is that Newsome's marital status and sexuality have no bearing on the police carrying out their duties in serving a warrant. Disclosure by police represents a "third-party" revelation.

March 25 Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced changes on use of DADT that barred third-party disclosures.

"The DADT policy is important and critical to this, but it's also a police misconduct case," Doody claims. Newsome said she and her attorney have not yet decided on whether to file a lawsuit.

"Outrageous," says Paul Cates, of the national ACLU office. "The charges that led police to Newsome's home don't involve her. They involve her partner," he clarifies. "What Newsome's marriage status has to do with her partner's situation and why police felt compelled to inform the military is not at all clear," Cates says. "It shows the absurdity of DADT," Cates says. He's not sure, as police chief Allender stated, the marriage license or Newsome's sexuality is relevant to the police investigation.

As the story swelled to national attention, Allender said "It's an emotional issue and it's unfortunate that Newsome lost her job, but I disagree with the notion that our department might be expected to ignore the license, or not document the license, or withhold it from the Air Force once we did know about it." Newsome's marriage document "was a part of the case, part of the report and the Air Force was privileged to the information, Allender said. He also said his department does not seek to expose gay military personnel or investigate the sexuality of Rapid City residents.

In scenarios like Newsome's involving third-party disclosure of another's sexual orientation, military leaders may be considering ways to relax enforcement before full repeal may be achieved. Gates has said the military might not have to expel someone whose sexual orientation was revealed by a third party out of vindictiveness or suspect motives. How Newsome's circumstances comport with Gates' suggestion isn't readily clear.

While about 80 percent of DADT discharges come from gay and lesbian service members who out themselves, third-party outings are "some of the most heinous instances of DADT," says Nathaniel Frank, research fellow, Palm Center, a think tank trying to direct traffic in the debate.

Newsome acknowledges that some gay and lesbian service members choose to disclose.

"I was once the direct supervisor of a woman who went to the legal department and revealed she is a lesbian. She explained that she wasn't suited for the service and was discharged. As her supervisor I had to be right there with her through the process," Newsome says.

South Dakota is home to Mount Rushmore National Park where the heads of four presidents are carved in stone. Is DADT carved in stone?

South Dakota ABC-affiliate KOTA TV asked visitors to their web site: Do you support allowing gays to serve openly in the military or do you support the current policy of "Don't Ask Don't Tell"? At press time, 46% supported the change, 47% supported DADT, and 7% didn't know.

While the nation debates the future of DADT, Newsome contemplates her future. "I'm not an activist. I hadn't planned to be changing my life. Right now I'm looking into different jobs. If I hadn't been discharged I'd be making the Air Force my career," she says.

Cut State Government contd from pg 1

governor's control.

Cost-cutting efforts are underway again. Will the result produce a lot of notes but no music?

Unanimously the state Senate created the Government Management and Costs Study Commission. The measure's creator, Sen. David Argall (R-29), announced his run for Congress against incumbent Rep. Tim Holden January 11.

Argall was elected chairman by the panel of six Republicans and four Democrats called for in the resolution. The measure calls for an "organized bipartisan" effort with six members appointed by the Senate majority leader, a Republican, and four members by the Senate minority leader, a Democrat. "On what planet is a six to four 'partisan' majority going in defined as bipartisan," commented one person contacted for the story.

So far, panel has held two public hearings on its core mission: cut costs, increase efficiency, consolidate like functions, eliminate functions, return functions and job creation opportunities to the private sector.

Although not specifically mentioned in the resolution, Argall says reducing the legislature is "on the table". At the first hearing, commission member Mike Kolchin, Lehigh University, suggested looking at the size and cost of the body. Argall agrees reductions are fodder for consideration.

"I have a specific bill to do just that, cut the size of the General Assembly," Argall says. Last December, he introduced S.B 1160 reducing the total number of senators from 50 to 45 and House members from 203 to 153. Argall expects the issue to be addressed in the commission's final report due June 30.

Reducing the size of the legislature is a slippery slope for commission member Sen. Daylin Leach (D-Delaware/ Montgomery).

"I think cutting the size of the General Assembly is an apocalyptically bad idea," he says. Leach says Pennsylvania already has one of the nation's smaller legislatures if measured by the only yardstick that makes sense – "the number of constituents each legislator represents."

If number of constituents per assembly member is the yardstick, Pennsylvania measures as the 8th smallest Senate, and the 11th smallest House. "The average state Senator nationwide represents about 165,000 people. Here we represent about 270,000," Leach points out. Each House member represents about 60,000 people. If measured by the total number of seats rather than how many constituents each Senate and House seat represents, the Keystone State has the second largest assembly with 253 members. Some legislative districts are now three hours in travel end-to-end.

Leach sees other drawbacks.

"Reducing the legislature diminishes legislators' ability to serve their districts, makes gerrymandering easier. More power is concentrated with fewer people, making it easier to marginalize racial, ethnic, or political minorities within a district," he says.

Former House member and Monroe County controller, TechQuest Pennsylvania CEO Kelly Lewis also thinks reducing a smaller legislature is not a good idea.

"Cutting the legislature saves a tiny sliver of money," Lewis says, agreeing with Leach that bigger districts "puts power into even fewer hands." He'd rather create savings by limiting session days. "Say 10 days for the winter, spring and fall legislative sessions. No more, no less." This step reduces the need for a full-time legislature with full-time staff.

Like any government commission, a panel on cost-cutting can shift quickly. Like marbles on a tray, ideas roll in the direction of those tipping the tray.

"I'm still not entirely sure about the parameters of our task. Are we supposed to recommend changes in state policy, or just make current policy more efficient?" Leach asks. Even so he has some concrete ideas.

Leach suggests revisiting a program started under Gov. Robert Casey that has grown lax over the years. "A deal was made where for every dime the state gave to Planned Parenthood, they had to give a dime to some pro-life anti-abortion organizations," Leach says. Planned Parenthood serves about two million women annually. "We have no idea where the money given to the other organizations goes. In fact, about four years ago, when I was in the House, there was a bill to audit those pro-life organizations and it was defeated. We can't even know how that money is spent. I'd eliminate that."

Lewis sees ways costs can be cut. "I believe the state budget can be trimmed another 10 percent without layoffs," Kelly says. Some savings, he says, can be achieved by consolidation and using a shared services model.

Kelly uses school districts as an example. "I'm ambivalent about whether or not we need 500 school districts. The number is not the issue. The issue is why do we have 500 systems for payroll, accounting, human resources, computers, and bus transportation?" Kelly advises that boroughs and townships should follow with similar consolidation and shared services models.

Kelly also thinks pension system consolidations are ripe for lower cots. "There is no reason why Pennsylvania governments have more pension systems than the rest of the nation combined. That's inefficient and costly. Like most states, we should have one pension plan for all levels of government in the state," Kelly recommends.

Kelly concludes that "Every organization on earth is using technology to better manage operations and reduce costs. Pennsylvania needs an "Office for Continuous Improvement," an independent, non-partisan effort that could save taxpayer dollars and report results openly."

Send your cost-cutting suggestions to: cuttingcosts@pasen.gov. (Frank Pizzoli served as a volunteer Task Force Chair (1995) on Gov. Tom Ridge's "Making Government Make Sense," a management performance and cost cutting commission.)

Pencilworks Studios & Gallery Relocates to Lancaster Scene

By Frank Pizzoli

Lancaster's Mayor Rick Gray is fond of an African proverb. "A man who doesn't know where he wants to go, doesn't need a map."

When Carl Woerner and Christopher Fielding decided to relocate, they confidently knew their exact destination. Sensing an "art vibe" that rattled, Woerner and Fielding pulled up stakes in Havre de Grace, Maryland. They planted themselves down on Lancaster City's Gallery Row.

Owner-artisan Carl Woerner and his jeweler-partner Christopher Fielding, of Lancaster's Pencilworks Studios & Gallery, recently joined the city's "gallery row" which begins at Prince and Walnut Streets.

Interested in art since junior high school, Woerner is a formally trained artist and graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art. He also holds a BFA in painting. Fielding has always had a love for jewelry. He's a self-trained craftsperson with boundless curiosity to learn new skills and techniques.

"We had a gallery in Havre de Grace, MD. The town has suffered pretty much from the economic down turn and we were unable to make our bottom line there," Woerner says. They chose to relocate to

Lancaster. "We sensed an ongoing arts renaissance." Woerner likes the city's numerous galleries close together, strong theatre, an art college and music academy, the new convention center. "Lancaster is neighborly, has all the amenities of a larger city without a lot of the negative."

The city's verve is not a secret.

"First Friday events draw from all along the east coast. Lancaster is an 'arts destination'", Woerner points out. On his way to FAB, an lgbt event that drew 530 attendees in Lancaster's new convention center, mayor Rick Gray told Central Voice the Friday night venue is jammed packed. "You ought to see these streets on First Friday. Every restaurant filled, over and over. The evening starts early and ends late," he beamed.

"I personally specialize in very realistic portraiture work of both people and animals," Woerner says. He's commissioned to do three or four dog portraits for every people portrait. "My work is very realistic and I have actually had folks pass quickly by the gallery and think I was operating a photography studio."

Besides commissioned pieces, Woerner also creates his own visions. "My work is very nature based. I like to take a simple object and elevate it to almost an iconic stature." In his personal style he often uses prisma-color pencil, hence the gallery's name. "I like to have viewers see everyday objects as they have never seen them before, the simple beauty that nature creates. Nothing man makes matches nature's beauty. In fact, most of man's designs have been influenced by nature.

Woerner is known for adding the sensual to his work, sometimes by accident, often by design.

"I love to draw objects like peppers and shells and bones and all of them turn out like these wonderful Rubenesque figures with voluptuous curves and lines. I also like to play with gender roles and stereotypes," he says. He's currently working on several pieces that examine through metaphorical objects the roles that society applies to men and women and how they either fall into that mold or stand out from the norm. For example, Woerner's working on a piece called "Lumberjack Conga", which depicts a line of lumberjack plaid shirts, arms around each other doing the conga. "That's something you may not picture a group of lumberjacks doing.

He calls another piece "Butch Femme" which shows two embracing shirts with one being very masculine and one a very feminine pink lacy thing. Woerner always adds things into my work for viewers to seek out. If you look too quickly at his work, you may miss his message. "I hide images in my work, emphasizing the general message the piece speaks to and because I can. I've had people looks at my works for months and suddenly find some unexpected imagery within it. I like to push peoples' buttons. Not too strongly, but just enough to get them to think beyond the basic image."

Woerner is also working on "Secret Lives" that explores sides of ourselves we share with no one. "I'm working on a piece now called "Boys Toys" that explores how we assign gender roles to our children even before they are out of the womb. "Like painting the nursery pink or blue. We create preconceived paths for them to follow instead of allowing them to be whomever they are naturally," he explains. The piece depicts a collage of alphabet blocks which look random, but are actually specifically placed, colored and spelled out to reveal the message all boys are given as children.

Jeweler Fielding creates one of a kind pieces and he can create to order. His specialty is a rare fluorite called "Blue John" from Castleton, England, found only in this one place and not well known in the US. England doesn't officially export the stone, so as far as he knows. His gallery is the only one in the US to carry it. Fielding's work also features natural stones and South Sea and freshwater pearls, including amethyst, Peridot, amber, and others set in sterling silver.

continued on page 34 >

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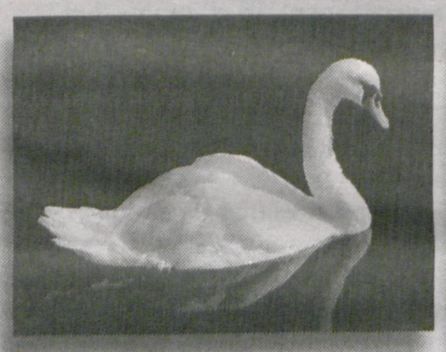

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Anti-gay Marriage Bill Defeated

The Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee voted against legislation to amend the state constitution to ban same sex marriage.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania hailed the vote as a victory for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the commonwealth.

"The efforts to embed discrimination against LGBT people into our constitution have failed for a third time," said Andy Hoover, legislative director of the ACLU of Pennsylvania, citing failed attempts to pass similar legislation in 2006 and 2008.

"This committee today recognized that LGBT people are our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends, and our family members and that they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect."

Senate Bill 707, introduced by Senator John Eichelberger of Blair County, was tabled by an 8-6, bipartisan vote of the committee. Although Senate rules allow the bill to be considered again at any time, Hoover noted that it is unlikely that the bill will be brought up before the end of the 2010 legislative session.

"This vote today spoke loud and clear," Hoover said. "Members want to move on and address truly pressing issues for the people of Pennsylvania."

Committee members who voted for the motion to table SB 707 included Republicans Pat Browne, Jane Earll, and Mary Jo White and Democrats Daylin Leach, Lisa Boscola, Wayne Fontana, Michael Stack, and Jay Costa.

250 Celebrate Gender Diversity

By Jeanine Ruhsam, TransCentralPA

Over 250 registered attendees and seminar presenters were at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel for the Keystone Conference 2010: A Celebration of Gender Diversity from March 11 through 13. This was the second annual regional gender conference put on by TransCentralPA here in Pennsylvania's capitol city- three days of education, communication and celebration by, with and for the transgender community, its allies and supporters.

While this is largely a regional event intended for those within a four hour drive of Harrisburg (thus including all of PA, plus the Baltimore, Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York City areas), eager participants arrived from as far away as Los Angeles, Chicago and south Florida. Fifty different seminars and workshops took place from Thursday through Saturday, with topics ranging from medical and therapeutic issues particular to transgender people to spiritual and youth centered discussions.

With the assistance of Common Roads (the LGBT Center's youth services program) and the Millersville University's GSA, TransCentralPA hosted the Butterfly Ball: A Celebration of Transformation for LGBTQ youth at the Sheraton's Pennsylvania Ballroom Friday night. Planning for this prom-like affair for alternative youth had been underway for many months, and what a joy it was to see the young ball-goers shining with happiness. As the students began to arrive for the gala event, well over 100 transgender Keystone attendees boarded buses bound for fine dining at four of Harrisburg's best restaurants and dancing at Stallions Nightclub afterwards.

The event wrapped up Saturday night with a formal dinner for two hundred beautifully dressed people. Noted transgender advocate and educator Donna Rose (formerly on the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign and their national co-chair for Diversity and the co-chair appointee-elect for the Business Council) gave a rousing and empowering keynote address to the attentive crowd. Following on the heels of Donnas' applause the night rocked into dancing till the next morning to the eight-piece Burning House Band.

Sponsors for the conference included Dr, Sherman Leis, Dr. Christine McGinn, Amanda Richards, Dr. Emilia Lombardi (University of Pittsburgh) and the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA.

Not a week passed before TransCentralPA was literally center stage again. Five women from TransCentralPA joined with fifteen other powerful women in the staging of Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues Wednesday night and Saturday afternoon at Penn State Harrisburg. This was the first time in Central PA that openly transgender women participated in Ensler's witty, soulful and moving play that was produced and sponsored by a coalition of women's anti-violence organizations.

The Vagina Monologues: A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer and a screening of the documentary film Until the Violence Stops are part of the local area V-Day campaign. V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls; it is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FM) and sexual slavery. TransCentralPA was proud to be listed as a sponsor of this year's production of The Vagina Monologues.

Contact: www.transcentralpa.org

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Well fans, I'm back from a sailing holiday with my cousin Fonda Cox. Our mothers are sisters and our fathers are first cousins so you, ah, do the math.

Heteros – What Are We Going to Do?

Catching up on local news, I ask again: What are we going to do with heterosexuals? They're incorrigible! And to think so many of them get all riled up about protecting marriage. As if marriage – which they call tying the knot as a reflection of how much they enjoy being with one another - wasn't from day one an economic arrangement between men and women and family dynasties. Heck, even Popes have been married and sired children. And when King Henry VIII couldn't get a divorce granted from Rome, he founded his own church and granted himself a divorce decree. All that sanctity, my…

I'm sure there's always been "romantic love". Not the let's-get-hitched-in-Vegas-while-we're-here-and-horny kind, but true love between partners. Actually, romantic love as it relates to marriage is only about 120 years old. I know. Discovery Channel tells me so.

Meanwhile, the local media tells me that we recently had a bank robber who spackled his face as a disguise. Sweetheart please! Make up is one thing. But spackle? Next time you want to look good for a caper, call me. We'll try airbrush and Manscara, anything but spackle. We'll get Dame Glenda involved. She's sweet and spends endless hours raising funds for good causes. And she has a bevy of other entertainers who ably assist her.

And before I'm trampled by 150 other drag performers from the region, I formally acknowledge the many truly good goils out there who labor on their own time and at their own expense to also raise funds for so many good causes – Pride, HIV/AIDS, Toys for Tots.

Now where was I?

Ah, yes, what to do about heterosexuals.

Can you believe that one out of state visitor hurled a roast beef sandwich at a woman during an argument. Got cow? What's he have against beef? Maybe she was all spackled up and he showed his dismay by pitching his beef at her.

Before I get buried in emails, please know that I, Central Voice, anyone connected to the publication, and all right thinking people abhor any form of violence, intimidation, or any behavior that diminishes another human being.

Then I read about police searching for a bunch of young men. One of them threw a sock filled with feces and a bottle of urine. Next, a Lebanon man was bopped in the head with a beer can thrown from a passing vehicle. Then we had the drunk guy who flagged down a policeman and asked to be arrested. Now, I've been known to flag down cops. But I don't ask them to arrest me. I ask them to accost me…right there, just like that please, stop in about an hour or two.

Speaking of stopping, there I was at a public forum on same-sex marriage. After the main event, one speaker who supports gay marriage stuck around. He found himself quizzed by an ardent believer in the Bible's Book of Leviticus. He insisted that homosexuality was an abomination. And so he thought since that's what the passage says, and that's what he believes, it must be right. And that everyone on the planet must also believe as he does. (Ever wonder if there's a mental health component to these folks who cannot tolerate a thought or idea different from there own? OCD maybe, i.e. a thought different from their own destroys their sense of order and balance and well being and that's why they get so cranked up?).

Anyway, it got me thinking. Since this guy believes in Leviticus maybe he could help me. Not with picking out shoes, although he looked like he could sure use some help.

It also says in Leviticus when a man's brother dies he must marry his dead brother's wife. I have that exact situation in my family right now but my brother won't marry my sister-in-law. She's neat, clean, shapely, so I don't understand why he doesn't jump at the chance. I asked the Leviticus Guy if he would do the honor. He looked at me with a weird expression as if to say one doesn't actually believe everything in the bible. Ah, I get it. The faithful can pick and choose what they believe.

"I always thought straight people were so boring. Anyone can be wrong."

Pencilworks cont'd

The gallery also features permanent resident and guest jeweler Patricia Rosenberger, of Middletown, Delaware. Rosenberger's work is less formal with a teasing, fun edge to her creations. "She likes whimsy and play on words. Hers is casual and funky style," Woerner says.

They also represent six American crafters including wooden boxes, bud vases, ceramic figurines, marble statues and formally distribute Great Britain's "Harmony Kingdom" products.

Prices vary. Commissions start around $950 for portraits, includes framing. Retail and jewelry items start at $10 and end at about $1,200. "About 70% of the gallery falls into the $10.00 to $500.00 range," Woerner says. And now Pencilworks Studios & Gallery falls within readers' range.

Info: Pencilworks Studios & Gallery, 154 N. Prince St., Lancaster, PA 17608, 717-393-5157; Pencilworks@comcast.net; pencilworksstudio.com.

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NJ Chorus Joined Harrisburg Chorus

When 40 trained voices from New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus joins 20 trained voices from Harrisburg Men's Chorus the audience experiences an unforgettable evening. That's what happened last month at Harrisburg's Market Square Presbyterian Church.

Photos by Angela Dick

Roadmap Released for LGBT Elder Services

As America's 65+ population continues to grow in ways challenging our social and economic fabric as never before, a new report reveals the conditions facing America's lgbt seniors.

The clear understanding of these challenges provided in "Improving the Lives of LGBT Elders" will aid policy makers striving to make sure all Americans can age successfully.

Even as our country moves closer to insisting on fair treatment and full opportunity for all of our people, the effects of long-standing discrimination against the lgbt community remind us of how far we still have to go.

Myths about lbgt persons have long been an obstacle to justice. Even as our society has overcome some damaging stereotypes, other myths linger and hold back progress. Importantly, the report notes the mistaken belief that "LGBT people are more affluent than other Americans."

In fact, a lack of financial security is the fearful reality for a large percentage of lgbt older adults. This report makes a thoughtful and nuanced contribution to the public policy dialogue through its depiction of issues involving financial security, health and healthcare, and social and community support. The report provides depth to a steadily growing pool of information.

The special challenges facing many lgbt older adults must be kept in mind. Whether it's the problem of aging in isolation or the treatment of residents in institutionalized settings or other issues, many lgbt older adults often face special challenges. This report can help government and nonprofit organizations address some of those challenges.

From a holistic perspective, the report makes it clear that LGBT individuals and the lgbt community at-large have a major role to play in determining the degree to which policy and advocacy issues that affect lgbt older adults are given appropriate consideration. Advocacy with and on behalf of lgbt older people will make a significant difference.

While many members of AARP are members of the lgbt community, the issues raised in this report extend beyond our membership and our organization. It is not only a question of lgbt fairness—the issues raised involve the fair treatment of all Americans, and how our society will promote a secure retirement.

This report will help to inform our country as we move forward to fulfill our highest ideals, appreciate our diversity, take care of each other, and ensure that all our citizens can age with dignity and purpose.

Info: www.nsclc.org; LGBT Movement Advancement Project (MAP), 2215 Market Street, Denver, CO 80205; 303-292-4455; www.lgbtmap.org; Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders (SAGE), 305 7th Avenue, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10001, www.sageusa.org.

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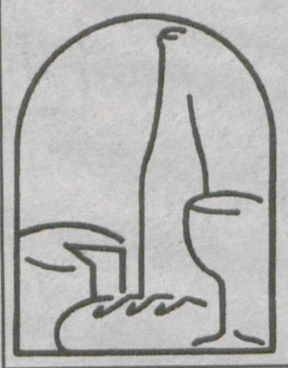
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